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CBC spokesman says Ghomeshi is 'getting nothing'

Scandal-plagued former radio host reaches an agreement with public broadcaster to withdraw his $55-million lawsuit PAGE 14

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EASY, MAIL-IN DNA TESTS ARE LEADING PEOPLE TO THEIR RELATIVES — WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT PAGE 16

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

FERGUSON FURY IN T.O.

Aisha Petrie, 18, was among thousands of people rallying outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto on Tuesday, the day after a Ferguson, Mo., police officer was cleared in the shooting death of Michael Brown. The rally called for "justice" in Ferguson and an end to police violence everywhere. A request that non-black protesters limit their visibility and "stand behind black folks" at the protest sparked a heated debate on social media. More Ferguson coverage on pages 4, 17 and 19. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Narrower traffic lanes applauded

Shrinking streets.
Plan lauded as a step toward improved safety for city's drivers, cyclists

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

A plan to narrow traffic lanes across Toronto is being hailed as a step forward for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike.

Under new rules drafted by city staff, the default width for curb lanes will be reduced to between three and 3.2 metres, but the precise width will vary depending on the type of road, and whether there is existing bus service or bike lanes.

"We have a huge number of competing priorities for our rights of way," said Jared Kolb of Cycle Toronto. "What this policy does is enable us to do more with what we've already got."

In addition to freeing up space for bike lanes or wider sidewalks, the new policy is aimed at encouraging drivers to slow down.

"There is a direct relationship between travel speed and lane width. Overly generous lane widths have been shown to contribute to speeding," said Fiona Chapman, a manager with Toronto's transportation department.

Chapman said that when combined with signal improvements, the narrower lanes may actually reduce travel times.

"Congestion is entirely independent of travel lane width," she said. "The goal is to keep people moving smoothly, especially if they're travelling at the posted speed."

Kolb believes the new lane policy will make roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

According to Cycle Toronto, a cyclist hit by a car travelling at 30 km/h has a 90 per cent likelihood of survival. That number drops to 50 per cent if the vehicle is travelling at 45 km/h or more.

"This is definitely going to make cycling feel safer," said Kolb.

According to Chapman, the new lane widths will be implemented over time, as roadways are resurfaced or repaired.

Quoted

"This is definitely going to make cycling feel safer."
Jared Kolb, of Cycle Toronto, who called the plan a "prudent, 21st-century approach" to transportation.

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Ontario colleges decide to create sexual assault policy

Unanimous. Move by province's 24 public college presidents comes after Torstar investigation revealed struggles of sexual assault victims

The presidents of Ontario's public colleges have voted to create a provincewide standalone policy to deal with campus sexual assault.

"There was just quickly and universally a sense from them all that if young women are not coming forward and if there are barriers, then obviously what we are doing has not been sufficient," Linda Franklin, president and chief executive officer of Colleges Ontario, told Torstar News Service on Tuesday.

"The presidents all agreed that the right and best thing to do was to work together to develop a provincewide policy on sexual assault that all of the institutions could use."

Franklin said the presidents of 24 public colleges believe the development of a special policy is a critical first step in what will be increased efforts to ensure their schools are better equipped to support their students.

The decision came after an ongoing Torstar investigation revealed Canadian post-secondary institutions are failing sexual assault victims. Several women have told Torstar that after experiencing an assault they felt unsupported by their school and did not have a clear understanding of what their options were. The assaults have derailed the academic careers of women attending top institutions across the country and left them shaken, confused, anxious and depressed.

Torstar's investigation found that of 78 universities in Canada, nine had special policies designed to deal with sexual violence. Two major universities featured in the investigation, Queen's and the University of Saskatchewan, committed on Friday to creating a policy.

None of the public Ontario colleges, all members of Colleges Ontario, surveyed by the Torstar had a special policy.

Some of the nine sexual violence policies are stronger than others, but all include a definition of sexual assault based on the Criminal Code. They also make clear there is zero tolerance for the behaviour, and that the schools commit to supporting and accommodating victims. There are also protocols on who to speak to and what could happen if a student comes forward, including how the school will investigate and adjudicate a formal complaint.

Colleges Ontario president Franklin said the decision to create the provincewide policy was finalized on Tuesday, following a presidents' meeting held the day before during their annual conference.

She said a task force will be started this week. They are reaching out to student leaders for feedback and representation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Collaborative effort

Colleges Ontario has also reached out to the Council of Ontario Universities, an organization that counts 20 publicly funded universities as members, to discuss the development of a policy to be used by all post-secondary institutions across the province, said Franklin.

- Bonnie Patterson, president and CEO of the university council, said the council has arranged meetings and launched a review of all existing policies.

Tess Klaver says she was sexually assaulted during her time at Queen's University. She told Torstar News Service the lack of support had a significant impact on her mental health. Queen's has now committed to create a standalone policy to deal with campus sexual assault. RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Province appoints reviewer for troubled TDSB

An unprecedented move by the province — to send in a troubleshooter to help Toronto's feuding school board find a way to broker peace — has been welcomed by members of all factions, as well as new trustees who take office next week.

Veteran educator Margaret Wilson, appointed Tuesday by the province to review the Toronto District School Board, has also been tasked with suggesting ways the board might be restructured, amid concerns it is too big and unmanageable.

"It's a question that's been on my mind for four years — amalgamation welded together local boards that were mighty big boards in themselves," returning trustee Pam Gough said of the six local boards merged in 1998 to create Canada's largest school board, and also the fourth-biggest in North America.

"Is this whole system so big it's not capable of handling itself?"

Gough said the appointment of Wilson, a former union official and registrar of the Ontario College of Teachers, to improve relations and look at whether proper processes are being followed "will help us refocus on our main job and stop the interruptions that have been such a huge distraction."

Jennifer Story, one of the 11 new trustees who take office Monday, noted many of the newcomers "ran on a platform of accountability and transparency with the aim of restoring public confidence in the TDSB ... This is a step in the right direction."

From accusations of tampering with documents, to trustees harassing staff and one elected official facing criminal charges, alongside lingering concerns over the director's alleged secrecy and "insubordination," Education Minister Liz Sandals said the endless string of scandals in recent months has taken its toll.

There are "almost daily examples of confrontation, obfuscation and a lack of communication," Sandals told reporters at Queen's Park, "and together they represent a real threat to public confidence not only in the board but the entire public education system."

"It is clear that the issues at TDSB go beyond simply competing personalities. It would be naïve to think the TDSB finds itself where it is today because of the actions of any one person or any one group of people. I am concerned that the issues at the TDSB may be symptomatic of broader governance issues."

Wilson is to report by year's end on the "level of co-operation" between trustees and Director of Education Donna Quan, and "help support a positive transition" for new trustees. She'll also look at how well trustees and senior staff are performing their duties, and also whether Quan's $289,000 salary is allowed under a provincial freeze on pay increases.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Education Minister Liz Sandals, left, and Margaret Wilson, the appointed troubleshooter for TDSB. RICHARD J. BRENNAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

‘Stand behind black folks’: Message to Toronto protesters

Social media reacts.
Thousands hold vigil for slain black Ferguson teenager

Thousands braved freezing temperatures in Toronto on Tuesday night to hold a vigil for Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager slain by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., in August.

They gathered across the street from the U.S. Consulate, a day after a grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Brown, who was 18.

A suggestion by some in the crowd, also echoed on social media, that white and non-black protesters limit their visibility and “stand behind black folks” at protests sparked a heated debate on social media.

Bilan Arte, one of the Ottawa event organizers, said on the vigil’s Facebook page that “white/non black allies” should “refrain from taking up space” and “never be the centre of anything.”

The same message appeared verbatim on the Facebook page for the Toronto rally, asking whites and non-blacks to not speak to the media, saying “black voices are crucial to this.”

Arte’s post prompted more than 100 comments, with one man asking “is this an anti-racist rally or a pro-segregation one?”

Quoted

“Refrain from taking up space.”

Part of Bilan Arte’s Facebook post

Arte, deputy chairwoman with the Canadian Federation of Students, said on her own Facebook page that she received upwards of 50 messages from “righteous upset white people” taking issue with the post.

But there were many non-blacks among the protesters and no sign of any discord.

Protest leader Lena Peters said the immediate issue was that the grand jury made the decision not to take the “murder” of a black man to trial.

“Those folks who are here tonight don’t believe that’s OK,” she said.

“We believe that it is part of a larger system that doesn’t value black life.”

Holding candles, protesters chanted, “No justice, no peace.”

The protest was organized by an online forum called Black Lives Matter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters gather in Toronto for an anti-police-brutality protest in front of the U.S. consulate Tuesday, in the wake of the grand jury verdict on the Michael Brown shooting out of Ferguson, Mo. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Regent Park tenants move on

Change. Long-time residents at a TCHC property bid adieu to their building, which is slated to become condos

On the morning of the last day, with belongings packed up and stowed away, Yvette stood in her home and wondered how to say goodbye.

Her daughter had the answer.

"Why don't we write something on the walls?"

Their building, a Toronto Community Housing Corporation townhouse unit in Regent Park, was set to be torn down as part of the "revitalization" of the neighbourhood. They had lived in the row of homes at 44 Wyatt since around 2001. Surely the walls were theirs to write on.

"Go for it," Yvette told her daughter. Then she grabbed a marker, too.

Now demolished, with nothing but the pits of the basements left where their home once stood, just the walls of the structure had been ripped off at first, leaving a jagged half-standing hulk near River and Dundas.

The messages left by Yvette and her family were visible from the street.

"Love this house," Yvette's youngest daughters wrote on their pink bedroom wall.

Yvette herself, in her own room, scrawled: "May God Bless us all in our new home." She drew a smiley face for punctuation.

"I moved here when I was expecting my second child," said Yvette, who has three kids of her own and two step-kids.

"My girls, they know no other home than this home."

After 13 years in their four-bedroom low-income townhouse in the east side downtown neighbourhood, the family was forced to pack up and leave when the TCHC sold the property to developers with ambitions to build condos.

Dubbed The Regent Park Revitalization by the public housing agency, the project's professed aim is to spruce up the area by replacing dilapidated decades-old housing projects with mixed-income housing and new space for businesses, an aquatic centre and athletic facilities.

Like many of the 7,500 TCHC tenants who lived in Regent Park, Yvette and her family had to relocate to new digs elsewhere in the city, which the housing agency co-ordinated through a lottery system.

"I liked living (in Regent Park)," Yvette told Torstar News Service.

"It was a neighbourhood that could be extremely dangerous, but at the same time, us as neighbours, we took care of each other."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Promise

In all, TCHC has promised to replace 2,083 rent-geared-to-income units — 1,800 in the original area and 266 nearby — while bringing in 5,000 new market-rate condo units. New buildings in the first phase have already been finished, with some earlier displaced tenants enjoying new units. Meanwhile, other old buildings have been reduced to rubble.

City cleans up after the wind storm

A huge tree knocked to the ground by the high winds on Monday night still blocked Pacific Avenue near High Park on Tuesday. Gusts of at least 70 km/h blew trees down and knocked power out for thousands of people in the GTA, as the temperature dropped from a record high of 18.5 C Monday to just 3 C on Tuesday. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORONTO STAR

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Finding your do-good diva

Make music, raise money. Toronto songwriters launch the Song Creation Challenge for charity

GILBERT NGABO
gilbert.ngabo@metronews.ca

Remember the Ice Bucket Challenge?

If pouring a bucket of ice water on yourself freaked you out, don't worry. Turns out there's another way to have fun while supporting a noble cause.

Inspired by the mainly celebrity-driven ice-bucket campaign, Toronto songwriters Signe Miranda and Taylor Abrahamse have decided to turn what they're good at into a similar campaign.

Hence, their new effort: the Song Creation Challenge.

"We wanted to inspire people to become more creative and have some fun while doing something worthwhile," said Miranda, a professional songwriter and recording artist for the past 20 years.

The rules are pretty simple, she said: write a song of any length, record it as audio or video and then publish it on any social-media platform.

Before hitting record, people have to nominate three others to take up the challenge, preferably via social media at #SongCreationChallenge.

The campaign aims to help charities, so everyone involved is asked to donate to an organization of their choice.

A handful of people have embraced the idea so far, writing and performing songs about everything from mental health to GMOs.

The challenge proves what Abrahamse and Miranda have believed for years: everyone can write and sing some kind of personal song.

"Everybody has creativity in them and we can all be happier through music and song creation," Abrahamse said.

The pair run The Song Creation Workshop, which offers a series of sessions that teach people to write songs.

"We try to find a way to give them a long-term access to creativity. That's pretty unique," said Abrahamse, once a top-40 contestant in Canadian Idol.

Past guests at the workshops have included Berklee College of Music Prof. James Linderman, producer and record-label owner Peter Linseman and Grammy-winning singer and producer Chris Birkett.

Taylor Abrahamse, left, and Signe Miranda, founders of Song Creation Workshop. COURTESY SONG CREATION WORKSHOP

Inspired by ice

After the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge went viral this summer, plenty of spinoffs started cropping up.

They included:

- A Rice Bucket Challenge focused on fighting hunger in India.
- A Lather Against Ebola effort that used buckets of soapy water.
- Matt Damon's decision to dump toilet water over his head to raise awareness about how many people can't access clean water.
- Actor Orlando Jones using a bucket of bullets to symbolize the "us versus them" mentality that sprung from events in Ferguson, Mo.

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Uber rebuts city official's allegation

Mystery taxi service

Akrem exists

When Alejandro Santiago realized his camera equipment was lost — perhaps stolen — he called his bank, and tracked down the credit card transaction for his cab fare. That led him to a company named Akrem Taxi, which neither he nor a city official could track down. The company appeared not to exist.

Akrem, it turns out, is a man: Akrem Mohammed. His four-month-old company, Akrem Taxi, has over 40 credit and debit machines it rents to drivers: "If we can get any further detail on the transaction, we can pinpoint this driver," Mohammed said, regarding the identity of the taxi driver. METRO

Safety. Company says its rides are just as safe, if not more so, than other cabs

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
rosemary.westwood@metronews.ca

Uber is biting back after a city official said its car-share service poses "a threat to the safety and security" of riders.

The app-based company tracks drivers — and riders — meaning it could prove safer than traditional cabs. That means situations like the one Toronto's Alejandro Santiago found himself in recently might more easily be avoided.

Santiago, a photographer, lost thousands of dollars in equipment when a taxi drove off with his luggage. He worked with the city to track down the cab driver — and company — but wasn't able to, eventually launching an Indiegogo campaign to replace what went missing.

Santiago's case prompted municipal standards officer Dmitri Kritsotakis to say similar situations are likely to crop up with Uber since some drivers aren't licensed like other cabbies.

Uber spokeswoman Lauren Altmin outlined the company's processes for Metro. The way she describes it, the company could be an answer to losing mitts, wallets and phones to the black hold of a cab.

If someone loses something while using Uber, they can use the app to message an Uber employee after the car drives off, Altmin said. The company monitors feedback around the clock.

"(The employee) will go through the process, including contacting the driver to let them know something was left in the vehicle," Altmin said. "Oftentimes, drivers will email and let us know they have a lost item."

Riders can touch base with the driver directly, too; the Uber app lets the two call each other, without revealing actual cellphone numbers.

The debate over Uber and its services in Toronto continues, with the company refuting a city claim that it poses a safety threat to riders. GETTY IMAGES

Last week, Toronto became the latest city to launch legal action against Uber, which is based in San Francisco and doing business around the world.

Cities such as Toronto say the service is a risk to the public because it operates outside city rules.

The Competition Bureau has weighed in on the Uber debate, issuing advice to municipalities. More coverage on page 18.

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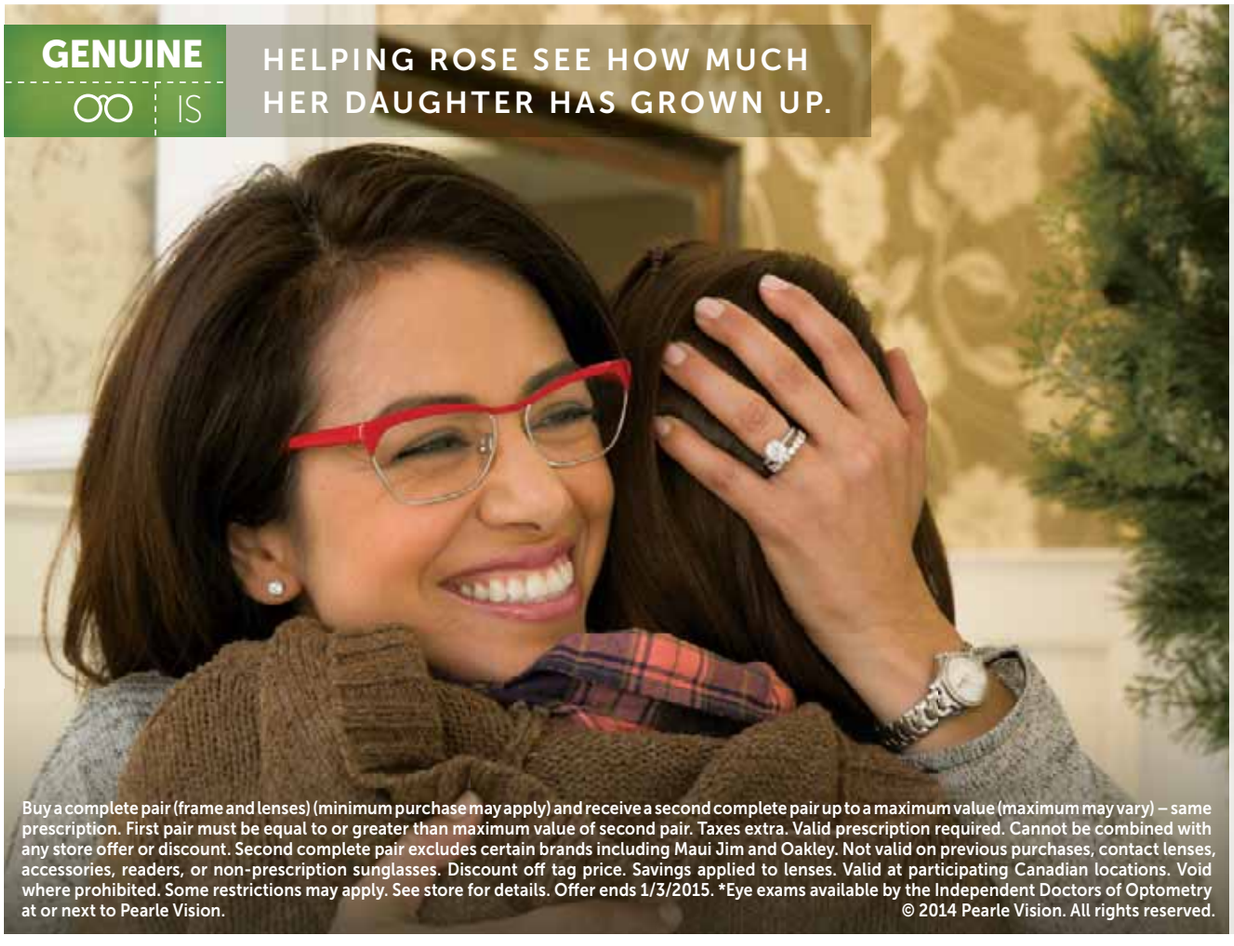

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New judge in case

G20 disciplinary hearing for cop to resume Dec. 1

A disciplinary hearing will resume Dec. 1 for the most senior police officer charged in relation with mass arrests made during Toronto's G20 summit. The hearing was put on hold last week after the presiding judge fell ill.

Retired Ontario Superior Court judge Peter Grossi had to leave his role on Friday due to medical reasons.

Another retired Ontario Superior Court judge, John Hamilton, is now presiding over the police hearing for Supt. Dave (Mark) Fenton.

Lawyers involved in the case say Hamilton has agreed to consider the evidence and testimony that was brought before Grossi last week, which means the hearing can pick up where it left off.

Fenton has pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges of unlawful arrest and discreditable conduct stemming from two "kettling" incidents that occurred over the G20 summit weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pesticide rules

Province plans to curb use of bee-killing pesticide

The Ontario government says it is planning to significantly curb the use of a controversial agricultural pesticide linked to honeybee deaths.

Agriculture Minister Jeff Leal says the goal is to reduce the number of acres planted with neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed by 80 per cent by 2017.

The province is also promising to reduce the over-winter honeybee mortality rate to 15 per cent by 2020 and establish a comprehensive Pollinator Health Action Plan. The bee mortality rate was 28.6 per cent in 2012-13.

Leal says that if the plan is approved, the new rules on the use of neonicotinoids will take effect by July 1, 2015. The governing Liberals say they will seek input from the industry, researchers, organizations and individuals in consultations held over the next two months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Library security cuts part of broader plan

Proposal. City libraries have been scaling back while improving services: Board chair

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Proposed security cuts are just the latest stage of an efficiency drive that's making Toronto's library system one to be envied, the man in charge has said.

But Michael Foderick, chair of the Toronto Public Library Board, said the drive hasn't involved cuts to services. It's the opposite.

The library board is cutting spending that doesn't need to happen and has been doing that for years, he said.

While they control the spending, he explained, service is growing — through everything from automated self-checkouts to new branches.

Despite new services, the total increase in the public library board budget over four years has been just one per cent — 86 per cent below the rate of inflation, according to a staff report.

Sitting at 99 libraries, the system's 100th branch, with an expected operating budget of $700,000, will open in Scarborough next year.

"The public is not interested (in), neither does the board support, the idea of cutting services," Foderick said. "Library service is sacred. It's something that people want to see improved and increased.

"The idea of cutting expenses is, on the other hand, something that the public is happy to see.

"It's the mark of a good budget."

The library budget is at the forefront of Foderick's mind right now after the board approved its 2015 submission to city hall on Nov. 17.

It asks for a 2 per cent funding increase, taking its total city funding to about $170 million, but includes the latest efficiency savings identified by Foderick and fellow board members. There was controversy at that Nov. 17 meeting over a proposed 40 per cent cut in security-guard services.

The cut — approved and

Quoted

"We've improved services and we've done that by removing $1 million in spending (for 2015)."

Michael Foderick, Toronto Public Library Board chair

Firm favourite

- Michael Foderick, chair of the Toronto Public Library Board, is indeed a reader.
- He tends to prefer non-fiction, but asked for his favourite, book he chose a piece of allegorical fiction.
- "If I had to pick one, I'd say Animal Farm by George Orwell," he said.

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Services are growing while costs are being controlled at Toronto's libraries. This scene was captured at the branch in city hall. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

part of the budget submission sent to city hall — was led by Foderick. It would save $663,000, leaving a total cost for 2015 (after the reduction) of $1 million.

Foderick led the charge, in part, because incident reports for some of the branches with security cover showed that those guards had little or nothing to do. At Centennial Library, for example, on Finch Avenue W., there was only one recorded incident, which was neither violent nor disruptive.

"There still need to be security guards in places," Foderick said. "If you look at the figures, some libraries have more incidents.

"Those are the sort of places where some permanent on-site security presence is justified.

"When you go through the other branches, 68 of them don't have any on-site security and never have."

Among the other recent changes at the library is new fines put in place for "holds" that aren't picked up. That's the system where people can ask for specific books be sent to their local branch.

About 15 per cent weren't being collected by the people who requested them, and bringing in a $1 fine cut that statistic in half, Foderick said.

That makes the most popular books more readily available while cutting costs for labour and reducing the need to buy more copies of the best-read books.

Foderick said he's proud of what's being achieved.

"It's being innovative," he said.

Follow Mike Donachie on Twitter @Mike_Donachie

Gledhill Public. Local school takes proactive stance on mental health

How do you calm your nerves when you're only nine years old?

Gledhill Public School decided to ask, as part of a new Ontario focus on student mental health. The Toronto school had classes from kindergarten to Grade 6 create murals for an unusual public-information evening to be held there Wednesday on the topic of mental health.

One Grade 5 class offered up tips: "Do 'tychee' when you're stressed — it helps."

"Take time to paint."

"Relax and 'chlax."

"To be mentally healthy leads to being happy."

The murals are part of a broader push by this east-end school in the Woodbine and Danforth area to lift the hush around mental health.

"The reality is, even in Grades 3, 4, 5, we do see children with stress, with gender issues and violence issues, and in Grades 5 and 6 some have issues around texting and sexting, so the need for mental-health supports can be great," said Gledhill vice-principal Vincent Spadaro.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grade 2 student Isabel Morano, 7, points to her work on a classroom mental-health mural on Tuesday. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Publication ban. News outlet publishes name of teen girl in child-porn case

Police have launched an investigation into a possible breach of a publication ban after a major news outlet in Halifax published the name of a teenage girl at the centre of a high-profile child-pornography case.

Const. Pierre Bourdages said Tuesday that they had received several reports from citizens complaining about the use of the girl's name, which is subject to a publication ban under the Criminal Code.

"There's already been a number of complaints filed with the department in relation to this article," he said.

"There's an alleged breach of the publication ban … so we have an investigation ongoing now."

The news outlet said late Monday that it decided to name the girl because it believes doing so is in the public interest, given the widespread recognition of her name and the good that can come from free public debate over sexual consent and other elements of her story.

The girl's family has been steadfast in their opposition to the ban, arguing that concealing her name ends up silencing her and suppressing part of her story. THE CANADIAN PRESS

23 years in prison

Ex-hairstylist may be exonerated

A former hairstylist turned drug dealer who spent 23 years in prison for murder has moved one step closer to possibly clearing his name.

Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay has referred Frank Ostrowski's case to the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

Ostrowski was found guilty of ordering the shooting of Robert Nieman over a drug debt. He was convicted largely on the testimony of a key witness, who had separate charges of cocaine possession stayed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jian Ghomeshi withdraws $55M lawsuit against CBC

Abuse allegations. CBC spokesman says both sides have reached an agreement

Scandal-plagued former radio host Jian Ghomeshi has reached an agreement with the CBC to withdraw his $55-million lawsuit against the public broadcaster, a CBC spokesman said on Tuesday.

Ghomeshi was fired by the CBC last month amid allegations of "abusive behaviour" from numerous women — claims he has denied.

The 47-year-old former host of the radio program Q launched his lawsuit a day after the termination of his employment, alleging defamation and breach of confidence in his statement of claim.

The CBC then argued in court filings earlier this month that Ghomeshi's allegations were frivolous or vexatious and urged a court to dismiss the suit.

CBC radio host Jian Ghomeshi is shown in a handout photo. The CBC says Ghomeshi has withdrawn a $55-million lawsuit against the public broadcaster. CBC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CBC spokesman Chuck Thompson confirmed that lawyers for both sides have now reached an agreement.

"The suit is being withdrawn with costs in favour of CBC," he said. "He's getting nothing."

Ghomeshi is expected to pay $18,000 in legal costs to the CBC, Thompson said. The agreement still needs to be formalized through a court — a step Thompson said is expected in the near future.

Ghomeshi had also filed a union grievance against the CBC alleging dismissal without cause, a matter that Thompson said remains active.

A lawyer for Ghomeshi confirmed that the lawsuit between his client and the CBC "has been resolved."

"CBC and Mr. Ghomeshi will address all issues in the lawsuit in binding arbitration in accordance with the collective agreement between them," said Jonathan Lisus. "Counsel appointed by the union will have carriage of the arbitration."

The CBC has said it decided to fire Ghomeshi after seeing "graphic evidence" that he had physically injured a woman.

Since his dismissal, nine women have come forward with allegations, some dating back a decade, that Ghomeshi sexually or physically assaulted them, and police are investigating complaints by at least three of them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Highlights from auditor general's report

Auditor general Michael Ferguson released his fall report Tuesday. Here are six issues highlighted by the audit team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long wait times

Many of Canada's battle-scarred veterans wait up to eight months to find out if they are eligible for long-term, mental-health disability benefits, and the department responsible for their care doesn't know if its treatment programs are effective. The report takes Veterans Affairs Canada and National Defence to task for saddling veterans with an array of paperwork and for making them wait a long time for help.

Sex-offender registry lacking information

The national sex-offender registry may not include some Canadians convicted of crimes abroad because the RCMP doesn't have access to Foreign Affairs information on convicts released from prisons in other countries. The report urges the RCMP to work with the department on improving information sharing.

In general, the RCMP did not have access to information on Canadians arrested, charged, convicted and released from foreign prisons. However the report says RCMP and Public Safety Canada were working with foreign police on investigations that affect Canadians.

Who benefits from food program in Northern Canada?

The federal government can't tell if northerners are reaping the full benefit of a program aimed at helping to offset the high cost of food in the North.

The audit team also had problems with the fact that the department doesn't collect reliable data on the profit margins of retailers in order to determine whether consumers are benefiting from the full subsidy.

Clutter at Library and Archives Canada an issue

Future generations may not be able to enjoy Canada's recorded heritage — including photos, maps and important documents — because Library and Archives Canada is not collecting all of the material it should from federal agencies.

The auditor general's report says Library and Archives doesn't know what it already has due to a backlog of 98,000 boxes of records.

Poor tools for finding some of the material in its collection make it hard to locate records — including documents on Indian residential schools needed by the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Aid projects plagued by delays

Funding delays of more than a year plagued two Canada humanitarian-assistance projects in Syria, while the military's water-purification system didn't measure up during last year's typhoon in the Philippines.

The report examined 42 Foreign Affairs projects totalling $172 million in response to eight global crises between April 2011 and December 2013, including African drought and famine, an earthquake in Guatemala and Hurricane Sandy.

A struggle to obtain information on auto bailout

Canadians would have to go searching through a bunch of different reports if they wanted to piece together how their tax dollars were spent on big auto bailouts.

The audit team says they struggled to get a full picture of the aid given to automakers, whether the money made a difference and how much was recovered and lost. They say that's because no single department or agency was in charge of collecting and reporting all this information.

No purchase necessary. Contest entry open Nov 26, 2014 until Dec 2, 2014 to legal res. of Canada (excl. QC) in the Toronto area, of age of majority in their prov. of residence as of entry. Prizes avail.: 15 advance screening passes of "TOP FIVE" awarded in Toronto. ARV $25/ pass. Odds dep. on number of eligible entries rec'd. Internet, email address, math skill-test req'd. Rules and entry: www.clubmetro.com

COURTESY ISTOCK

Meet the family, or perhaps not

When reporter Jessica Smith Cross learned Silicon Valley genetics-testing service 23andme was offering Canadians a new $199 mail-in test, she was curious: how much could she learn from her DNA and how much should she learn? This is the first in a three-part series in which Smith Cross — who took the spit test — delves into the implications of increasingly easy testing in the complicated legal and ethical Canadian landscape. First up: when it comes to your genes, why would you want to know?

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Carolynn Baird had given up on ever meeting her birth mother.

Baird, now in her 70s, has Parkinson's disease and signed up with the California-based genetic-testing company 23andme to learn about her genes. She wanted to know if she had a genetic family history of Parkinson's or if environmental factors were more likely to blame. Being adopted, she didn't know.

But the service didn't just give her access to her familial medical history — it gave her access to her family. Specifically, her mother.

23andme offers its $199 genetic-testing kits free to Parkinson's patients in an effort to aid research into the disease.

When she got the results, Baird learned she didn't have the typical genetic variant that's believed to predispose people to Parkinson's. She also learned she has a second cousin who, like her, had signed up to 23andme's relative-finding service.

She contacted the woman.

"I discovered that she knew my birth family. It was quite a shock."

Baird was adopted at six months and grew up in Ontario's Niagara Peninsula. She said she wanted to know her family out of "human curiosity."

Because of 23andme, Baird met "about 50" relatives and plans to keep in touch.

"This summer my immediate family — my kids, my husband and I — we went to one of their homes and met all the cousins and all the nieces, and it was an absolutely wonderful experience," Baird said. "I never expected my mother would still be here. It was quite amazing, really."

Unlike Baird, when I signed up to 23andme, I chose not to be notified if I have any relatives who use the service. I love the family members I have and have no desire to get in touch with a fourth or fifth cousin. But it hadn't occurred to me, until I spoke with people who are searching for family, what it might mean to find a distant cousin and use that connection to sleuth out family.

Still, Baird has not spoken with her mother. Her family pointed her out, but Baird chose not to tell her that she was her daughter.

"Since she had never told anyone about me, I didn't want to disturb her life at this stage. So when I went to see her, I just saw her. I didn't go and speak to her," Baird said.

In Surrey, B.C., resident Paul Dodds is urging Canadians, especially those who had relatives in the military, to take DNA tests so "war babies" like him who are the children of North American men who served overseas have a chance to find their relatives.

Dodds grew up thinking his mother's husband, Len Dodds, was his father.

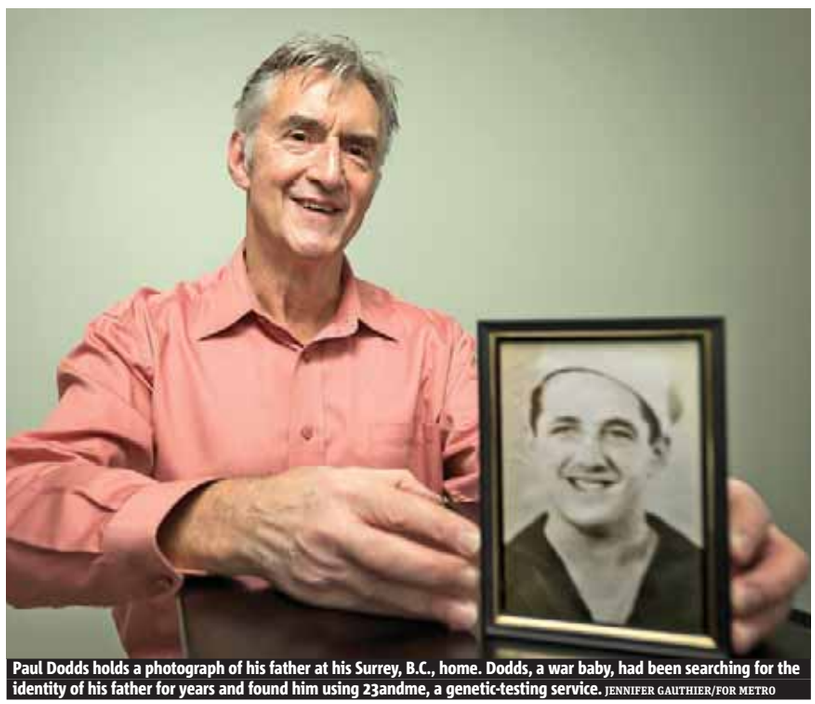
When he was 50, Len passed away from a rare cancer. He called a relative to find out more about Len's medical history, and that's when an uncle told him the truth.

"My mother had been deliberately lying to me," Dodds said. "She was hiding something, and I had to find out."

Dodds was born in Wales just after the Second World War.

Dodds tried 23andme and found a first cousin, who led him to his half sister, who lives in New Jersey.

He learned his biological father, Leon Rossien, was in Dodds' mother's area around Victory in Europe Day, May 8, 1945, when Dodds was conceived.



Paul Dodds holds a photograph of his father at his Surrey, B.C., home. Dodds, a war baby, had been searching for the identity of his father for years and found him using 23andme, a genetic-testing service. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

All in your genes

- Tomorrow: it's not science fiction — Smith Cross discovers genetic discrimination is very real in Canada.
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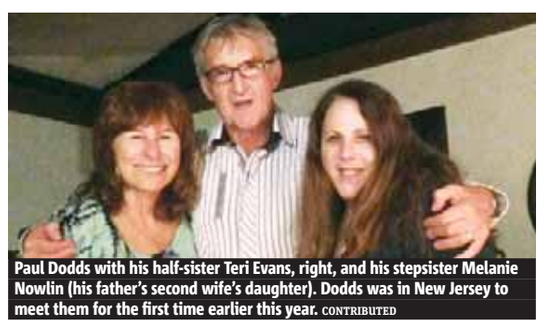


Paul Dodds with his half-sister Teri Evans, right, and his stepsister Melanie Nowlin (his father's second wife's daughter). Dodds was in New Jersey to meet them for the first time earlier this year. CONTRIBUTED

What if records are not legally available?

An alternate way to trace birth parents

A mother who gave up her child for adoption — or a once-anonymous sperm donor — can be discovered through 23andme if one of their blood relatives signs up and gets in contact with the person seeking the identity of their family. But that's not to say the mother or father wants to be found.

The laws surrounding the disclosure of birth-parent identity differ across Canada. For example, the parents of children born in Alberta and adopted prior to 2005 can veto the disclosure of their identities to the child. Parents in Ontario can veto the release of their identities if the adoption occurred before Sept. 1, 2008. In B.C., that veto date is November 1996. In Nova Scotia, both birth parent and adopted child must agree to the disclosure of the parent's identity. Manitoba's laws are set to change next year so that parents and children will no longer be able to veto the release of their information.

So, children seeking their birth parents can, in some cases, find out who they are through 23andme, even if the government records wouldn't legally be available in their situation.

Sometimes, finding family members you didn't know you had isn't a good thing.

For example, a biology teacher wrote an essay on Vox.com about how he accidently gave his parents "the gift of divorce" when he gave them 23andme kits for Christmas and they found his dad had fathered another child.

"I'm really devastated at the outcome," the man, who withheld his name, wrote. "I wrestle with these emotions. I love my family. This is nothing I ever would have wished."

Ferguson awakens to destruction after night of protests and arrests

Shooting death of Michael Brown.
Protesters peaceful and violent alike took to the streets last night in wake of grand jury decision

Missouri's governor ordered more National Guardsmen into Ferguson on Tuesday to keep order after a night of violence over the grand jury decision in the police shooting of Michael Brown.

Smoke billowed from burned-out Ferguson businesses on Tuesday and glass littered the sidewalks from display windows that were smashed during the protests that erupted after it was announced that police Officer Darren Wilson wouldn't be indicted for killing Brown on Aug. 9.

More than a dozen businesses were badly damaged or destroyed. Authorities reported hearing hundreds of gunshots, which for a time prevented fire crews from fighting the flames.

There were 61 arrests in Ferguson overnight, St. Louis County Police spokesman Brian Schellman said. There were 21 arrests in St. Louis, where protesters broke some store windows along South Grand Avenue, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay said.

At least 18 people were injured and sought treatment at area hospitals, including someone who was shot and recovering Tuesday at SSM DePaul Health Center. The hospital didn't give any details about the shooting. Two other people were admitted to Barnes-Jewish Hospital for undisclosed injuries. Everyone else was treated and released.

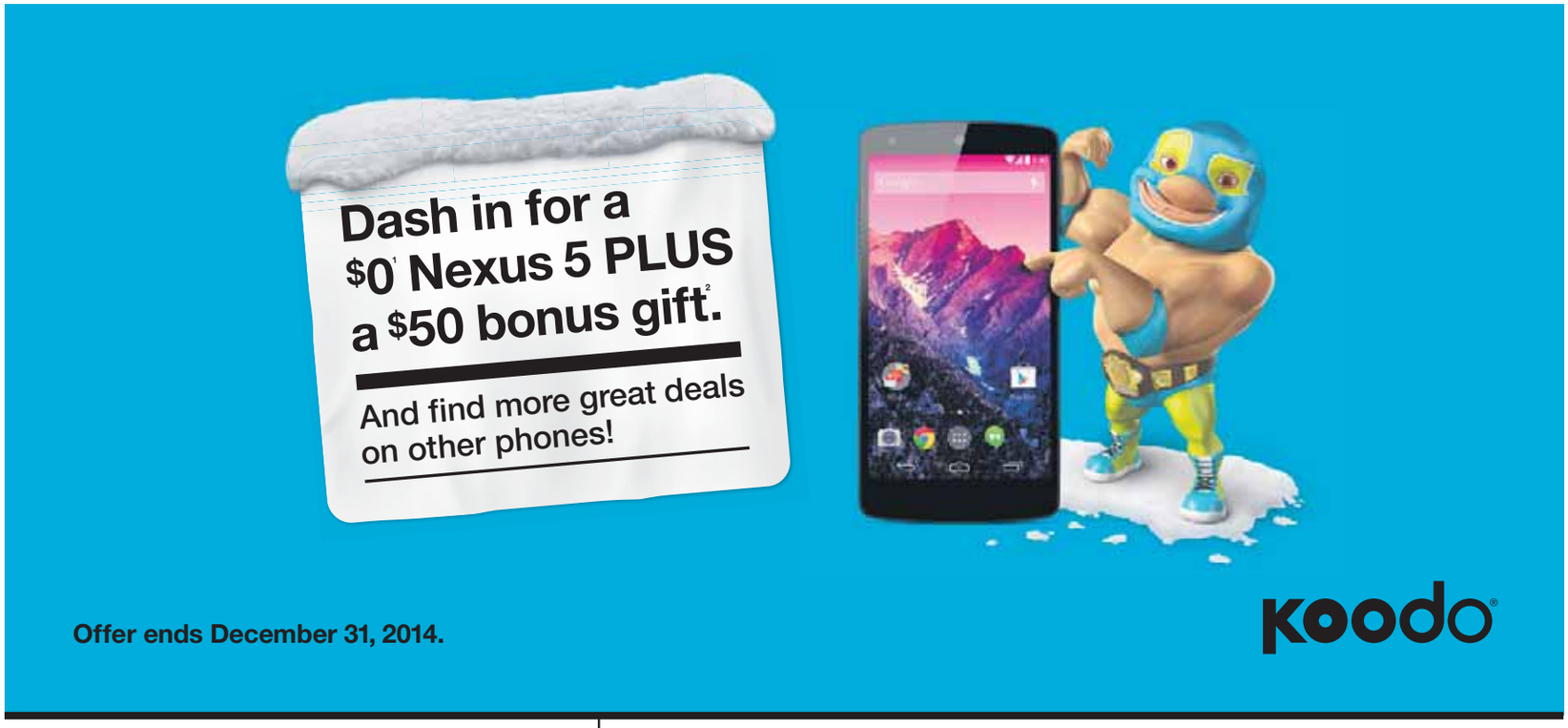
The grand jury's decision means that Wilson, who is white, will not face any state criminal charges for killing Brown, who was black and unarmed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simmering U.S. tensions

The world reacts

The violent protests in Ferguson, Missouri, reflect simmering U.S. tensions over racial discrimination that could undermine the country's stability, a senior Russian diplomat said Tuesday. The comments by the Russian Foreign Ministry's human rights envoy, Konstantin Dolgov, were among the sharpest from a foreign official as images of violent protests in Ferguson topped newscasts around the world.

This aerial photo shows the St. Louis skyline in the distance, Tuesday, as businesses smolder in Ferguson, Mo., after they were burned in overnight protests following a grand jury's decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in the killing of Michael Brown. CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Waterloo

BlackBerry paying people to ditch their iPhones

BlackBerry hopes a $600 incentive will convince iPhone users to swap their touchscreen Apple device for a keyboard-equipped BlackBerry Passport.

The Waterloo-based technology company plans to launch the holiday promotion in December, giving customers up to $400 of trade-in value, depending on which model of iPhone they have.

It'll also offer those who switch up to an additional $200 through a prepaid credit card.

The deep discount is only available to North American customers who order through Amazon or BlackBerry's online store before Feb. 13.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big hits for smaller paycheques

Bollywood actors Hrithik Roshan, right, and Katrina Kaif in Mumbai, India. Some of the biggest hits in India's prolific movie industry this year have female leads in female-oriented stories, but a film actress gets paid a fraction of what their male counterparts command. Top male stars earn around 400 million rupees ($6.7 million US) per film on average, according to industry experts. A-list actresses get paid a tenth of that per film. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Watchdog in favour of ride-share apps

Competition Bureau. After several cities took action against Uber, the federal regulator suggests loosening the rules may be the answer

The Competition Bureau says municipalities should consider whether moves to ban digital dispatch services and ride-sharing applications are necessary.

In a commentary published on its website, the federal regulator said Tuesday that municipalities should look to see if less-restrictive regulations could address their concerns.

"The Competition Bureau is of the view that these innovative business models have the potential to offer important benefits to consumers through more competition, including lower prices, greater convenience and better service quality for a variety of reasons," the regulator said.

The comments follow a move by Toronto council last week to seek a court injunction to force Uber Canada Inc. to stop operations in the city.

The Competition Bureau said municipalities have raised concerns that digital dispatch services may not comply with local regulations and licensing requirements.

It noted that Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver recently disallowed ride-sharing services and Ottawa and Toronto have taken enforcement action. The regulator said some have also raised concerns about consumer-protection issues, including safety and privacy concerns.

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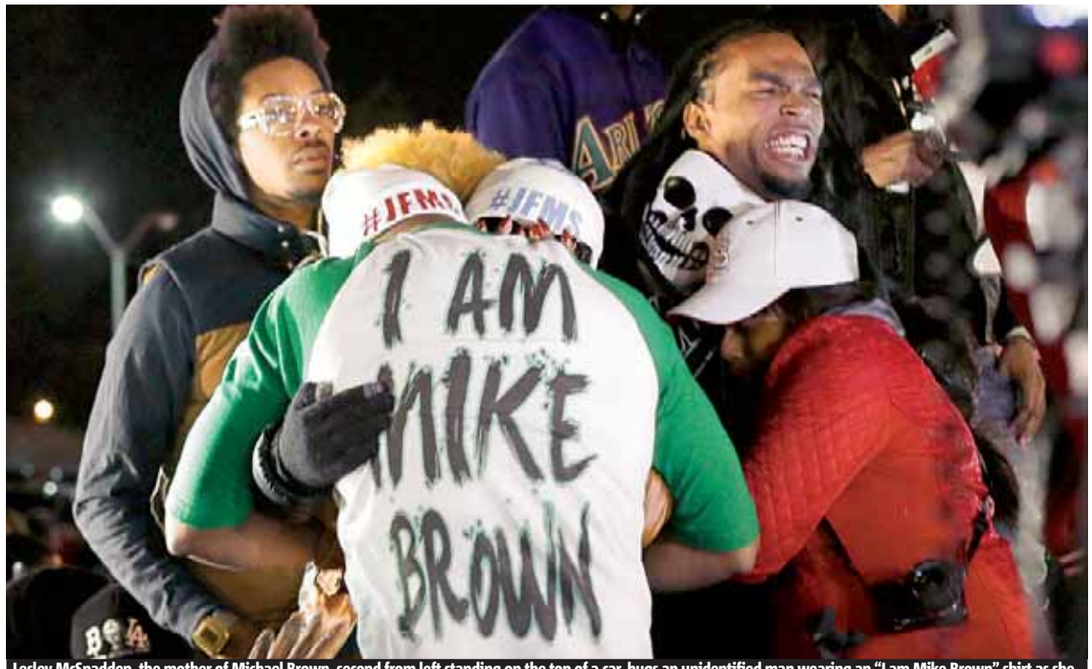
VOICES

‘HANDS UP, DON’T SHOOT’ RESONATES HERE

Emotions are running high and many questions remain in the aftermath of a grand jury’s decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Jen Taplin spoke with author, activist, spoken-word artist, professor and Halifax Regional Municipality poet laureate El Jones on why Canada needs to pay attention.

JENNIFER TAPLIN
Metro in Halifax



Lesley McSpadden, the mother of Michael Brown, second from left standing on the top of a car, hugs an unidentified man wearing an “I am Mike Brown” shirt as she listens to the announcement of a grand jury decision on Monday in Ferguson, Mo. The grand jury has decided not to indict. CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What was your reaction when you heard Darren Wilson would not be indicted? What’s the saying? “Shocked but not surprised.”

To indict the officer is to indict the system, and they can’t indict the system without then reforming it, so I didn’t expect anything to happen there.

What do you think about the reaction across the United States? You’ve seen photos of them being treated like it’s a hostile military country imposing no-fly zones.

So that’s very disturbing, that people who are citizens of the country being treated like the enemy, with the same tactics they’re using in Iraq or Afghanistan as invaders, and occupation is being directed at its own citizens.

From the beginning, there’s been a consistent police response, which has been about repression rather than recognizing the right of the people to be in their own streets in their own country. We tend to get this media response that it’s looting, it’s rioting. (But) it’s revolution.

The people are recognizing the solutions are not going to lie inside the political system, the justice system. It’s going to have to be from people making their own response, and that’s what we’ve seen on the streets of Ferguson.

People want to characterize that as violence, as that delegitimizes the protest.... I know people get frightened when something revolutionary happens but I think it’s positive because what we’ve seen is the ordinary people organizing.

What about the reaction in Canada? There’s been a lot more awareness of racial profiling and police brutality in general.... We had the Moncton shootings and we’re always coming through this lens in Canada, especially with Ottawa, of violence against police versus police violence.

There’s that question of, “Is it disrespectful to talk about the police when we’ve had Moncton?” When we held the Ferguson Rally in Halifax, people said, “There aren’t shootings here, so why are you holding a rally?”

And we said, “Well, that’s why. We want to get people organized to work in our communities before there’s a crisis point, because once you’re in crisis, there’s no justice and there’s nothing that can happen. Once somebody’s dead, what can you do?”

As African people, we have the right to engage our police departments. We should have a race-relations committee; we should have members of the community that are keeping the police accountable; we should be doing neighbourhood watch and police watch to make sure policing in our community is in relation to us and we have whatever relationships we need to have in the police department.

Quoted

“People said, ‘There aren’t shootings here, so why are you holding a rally?’ And we said, ‘Well, that’s why. We want to get people organized to work in our communities before there’s a crisis point.’”

El Jones, on why it’s important to protest in Canada

Grand juries

The difference between U.S. and Canada

KATE PUDDISTER
Guest column

When a grand jury looked at the shooting death of Michael Brown, it was not assessing the guilt or innocence of Officer Darren Wilson, but rather if the prosecution could lay a charge against him and what that charge should be.

In the U.S., grand jury deliberations are controlled by the prosecution and done in secret. The prosecution presents evidence and explains the law to the jury and how it applies to the particular case. The defence does not participate in a grand jury and thus there is no cross-examination of witnesses. The findings of a grand jury do not have to be unanimous; in Missouri, nine out of 12 jurors must support indictment for a charge to be laid. Prosecutor Robert McCulloch did not have to go the grand jury route. He could have laid charges and proceeded to a preliminary hearing, a process also used in Canada for serious offences. Unlike a grand jury, a preliminary hearing takes place in an open court, is supervised by a judge and allows for the cross-examination of witnesses by the defence.

Canada does not use a grand-jury process. Instead, in most Canadian provinces the police have the power to lay charges in criminal matters (with the exception of B.C. and Quebec). Once charges have been laid, it is up to the Crown prosecutor to decide which charges will be pursued in court. The Crown must decide based on the evidence if the prosecution is in the public interest and if there is a likelihood of conviction. Had this incident taken place in Ontario, the Special Investigations Unit (an independent civilian agency) would investigate and determine if criminal charges should be laid, as was the case most recently in the police shooting death of Sammy Yatim in Toronto, who, in an incident caught on tape, was shot eight times by police on a streetcar. The officer in the Yatim case, James Forcillo, was charged with second-degree murder by the SIU and is currently awaiting trial.

It is difficult to know whether the outcome would be different had the Ferguson case taken place in Canada. Arguably, in an Ontario scenario, the process would have been less controlled by the prosecution, there would have been an SIU investigation and the evidence presented would be subject to more restrictions and cross-examination by the defence. Finally, the decision to prosecute would not be left to a secret decision made by 12 anonymous individuals.

Kate Puddister is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at McGill University. Her research focuses on law and politics and Canadian criminal-justice policy.

Canadian stats

In at least one Canadian jurisdiction, police rarely face charges when involved in violent incidents.

- According to a 2010 investigation by the Toronto Star, the SIU had to date conducted more than 3,400 investigations, with criminal charges being laid in only 95 cases. Only 16 officers had been convicted of a crime, and three had gotten jail time.

metro
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Aniston revs up Dr. Julia's raunch in Horrible Bosses 2

Movies. Actress game to spice up sex fiend reboot but draws the line at mixing smut with gravy

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

In Horrible Bosses 2, Jennifer Aniston's sexually predatory Dr. Julia character from the first film finds herself in a setting that shouldn't be that surprising: a support group for sexual compulsives. Only she's not necessarily there with the most honest of intentions. Apparently she was faking the first step.

"I think the intention was to maybe seek help, but I think what she ultimately found out was that this is just like chum for her," Aniston says of the scene.

"What a wonderful sort of easy (opportunity). I'm sure she'd lost all of her patients, she'd done all of them, so maybe this was just another wonderful, innocent way to find more prey."

Dr. Julia as a character is one that got Aniston a lot of acclaim the first time around, particularly because it involved more raunch and raciness than audiences were necessarily expecting from her, and that's something she revelled in.

"She's a hard one to let go of. I didn't get enough of her. It was just like a little In and Out burger, and then she was done," Aniston says.

"I find it extremely entertaining, the way she speaks, because I don't really think, to her, she's saying anything inappropriate. I think to her, it's describing the ingredients to a wonderful soufflé or what are we going to be doing this weekend."

Quoted

"I think the writers called just to say, 'How far can we go with Dr. Julia?' I basically said, 'Go as far as you can go, as long as we're not insulting or offending too many people.'"

Jennifer Aniston

Jennifer Aniston as Dr. Julia in Horrible Bosses 2. CONTRIBUTED

Horrible Bosses 2

Director. Sean Anders

Stars. Jason Bateman, Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day, Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Spacey

The second look at the pitiful employment record of Nick (Jason Bateman), Kurt (Jason Sudeikis) and Dale (Charlie Day) sees them try to strike it rich with a new product called the Shower Buddy, but when a shady billionaire (Christoph Waltz) pulls a fast one, they get even by kidnapping his son (Chris Pine).

There are more laughs on the average job application than in this workplace "comedy." Bateman, Sudeikis and Day seem to be having fun, joking and jostling like brothers, giggling as if they are in on a fantastic gag that only they get. It's too bad the audience doesn't have as much fun watching the movie as the cast apparently did while making it. **RICHARD CROUSE**

Comedy vs. drama

Horrible Bosses 2 isn't the only big film Jennifer Aniston has on tap.

- **She's also been getting rave reviews for her more serious work in the indie drama Cake, which can lead to a bit of promotional schizophrenia. But she wouldn't have it any other way.**
- **"I love doing both," Aniston says. "I mean, I think one accesses one part of my brain, and the other accesses another. Anytime I approach any character, comedy or drama, it's grounded in reality coming from the truth. There's comedy in drama and drama in comedy — I don't find the two exclusive of one another."**

For a sequel, though, clearly the envelope needed to be pushed.

"Honestly, I think the writers called just to say, 'How far can we go with Dr. Julia?'

"I basically said, 'Go as far as you can go, as long as we're not insulting or offending too many people.' I think it rose itself to the occasion. The dialogue was great," she says.

Well, maybe not all of it was that great. There's a moment during the outtakes that play over the film's credits where Aniston flat-out refuses to say an improvised line of dialogue — and now she can't even remember what it was.

"I want to know what the line was! I don't remember," she says.

"The one thing I wouldn't say — imagine how bad it must've been if I said that I can't say it. Either it was so bad or I just really didn't understand it — probably one of the two."

Luckily, one of the film's producers is on hand to remind her: It had something to do with using gravy for sexual purposes.

"It had to do with gravy? Well there you go, right there," she says. "I can tell you, gravy is not funny. Sexual gravy is not funny."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Pitt and Jolie's balcony scene shows not all is domestic bliss

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

The working honeymoon is apparently over for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, who were spotted by paparazzi having an "explosive" argument on a balcony of Sydney's InterContinental hotel just hours before the Australian premiere of Unbroken, her new film. "He was clearly exasperated with her. They kept talking over each other and putting their hands up in anger. They were upset, but going nowhere. Angie looked like she was on the verge of tears," a source — who, come on, is obviously the photographer — tells In Touch.

And after their red carpet duties were done? They departed Australia — "Brad in one private jet, and Angie in another," another source says.

Now, according to Jolie herself, things at home are going pretty swell, though she does admit there's room for improvement.

"I think we have moments where I'll say, 'I'm going to be a better wife. I'm going to cook,'" Jolie tells Tom Brokaw during an interview. "And he says, 'Oh, honey. Just know what you're good at. Know what you're not.' But I do this: 'No, no, no! I'm going to get this wife thing down.'"

Maybe they were having one of those moments up on that balcony. Here's to hoping.

Chris Hemsworth and his new puppy ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

As if one major cutie in the family wasn't enough, the Hemsworths get a puppy

If Chris Hemsworth is the Sexiest Man Alive, does that mean the pooch his family just added to their ranks is the Cutest Puppy Alive?

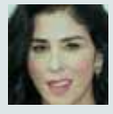
Not that I'm saying it isn't, mind you. Just wondering if this is some sort of line of succession thing. The Thor star's wife, actress Elsa Pataky, posted a photo of the pup on Instagram with the multilingual message, "Our new family member!" along with the hashtag cute.

Again, not arguing.

Twitter

@JimCarrey
The things u accomplished will never really feed u because there never has or will be a u to feed.

@therealroseanne
i wish the judges on the Voice were around when i effed up the star spangled banner cuz they would have praised the eff out of it!!



@SarahKSilverman
I just ate a giant box of lemonheads and now I have a stomach ache. Also it's 5:30 in the morning

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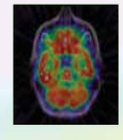

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Honolulu's urban scene

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

When people think of Honolulu, they are usually thinking of surf, sand and hula dancing. And while a visit to Waikiki — the city's main hotel and resort area on the south shore — is a must-see, there is a new urban culture that's well worth exploring.

With an emerging arts scene, new culinary offerings and trendy nightlife, Honolulu is developing its urban culture alongside the preservation of its cultural heritage.

"We're continuing to see the destination evolve through emerging neighbourhoods where communities of new, local talent — young chefs, artists, filmmakers and designers — are redefining Hawaii's culture, providing new experiences for visitors," said Les Enderton, executive director with the Oahu Visitors Bureau.

Over the past few years, Honolulu has seen a revitalization of Chinatown in the city's downtown core, which had a reputation for being rather seedy. While visitors can still experience Chinatown's traditional markets, herbal medicine shops and dim sum restaurants, the area has transformed into one of Oahu's hottest fashion, arts and dining districts.

Locally owned boutiques have opened their doors, including Fighting Eel, Homecoming, Andy South, in-4mation and Florencia Arias. And art galleries, such as The Arts at Marks Garage, feature exhibits by local and up-and-coming artists.

Tasting coconut shrimp with fresh pineapple or savoury garlic prawns from a shrimp truck shouldn't be missed if you visit Honolulu.

Honolulu offers the best of both worlds: An emerging urban scene, with outdoor adventures like surfing. HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TOR JOHNSON PHOTOS

A new generation of chefs is offering its take on traditional Hawaiian cuisine, with a focus on sustainability and locally sourced produce.

Chinatown is also one of the best spots to take in Honolulu's nightlife, with a high concentration of local watering holes and trendy bars. There's Bar 35, which serves up more than 150 beers from 21 countries, while Next Door hosts renowned DJs, and Downbeat Diner and Lounge offers live music.

Local favourite The Manifest acts as an art gallery and café by day, turning into a bar in the evening with one of the best selections of whisky in Hawaii. This is the place to get an Old Fashioned: Justin Park, Manifest's bar manager, was recently selected by the U.S. Bartenders' Guild to represent the U.S. in an International Bartenders' Association world cocktail championship in South Africa.

The Kakaako neighbourhood is also emerging as a Honolulu hot spot, serving as an incubator for artists, chefs and entrepreneurs. The area, which is undergoing a revitalization, is home to Honolulu Beerworks, which brews and serves local beer on-site, and Highway Inn, a longtime local favourite serving traditional Hawaiian fare.

Honolulu offers the best of both worlds: An emerging urban scene, with outdoor adventure and traditional culture. Learning to surf, experiencing a traditional luau and stopping by a shrimp truck — to sample coconut shrimp with fresh pineapple or savoury garlic prawns — shouldn't be missed.

Honolulu side trips

- Notable attractions in and around Honolulu include Pearl Harbor, Iolani Palace, Nuuanu Pali Lookout, and Hanauma Bay, as well as the Honolulu Zoo and Waikiki Aquarium for family fun.
- Or rent a car for the day and head to the North Shore to take in the island's surf culture. The world's top surfing competitions take place here, where waves can swell up to 30 feet or more.

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New

The world's smallest travel router

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How-to

Manage bio breaks on the road

1. Always take advantage of a washroom when one is available, even if you don't think you have to go.
2. Be mindful of your water intake if there is even a remote chance of getting stuck in traffic.
3. Carry a few sachets of disinfecting wipes in your day pack.
4. A small bottle of hand sanitizer is great for sharing with the group/kids.
5. Pocket extra napkins from the lunch table, in case you need them later.
6. Keep a few coins on you in case the toilet has a toll.
7. When presented with facilities that are not what you're used to (i.e. holes in the floor), just roll with it. At least you'll get a good story out of it.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Trend

Airport cinemas for the layover crowd

Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport is about to open a screening room for passengers in transit with time on their hands. This new viewing lounge is part of a larger arts-oriented refurbishment (pictured) that hopes to give travellers a better sense of the city's cultural offerings. Airports in Seoul, Hong Kong and Singapore already have commercial cinemas — Hong Kong's being an IMAX. Watch for other U.S. hub cities like Dallas and Philadelphia to follow suit.

TEXT: DOUG WALLACE/METRO PHOTO: AIRPORT FOUNDATION MSP

Drinking in all the world has to offer

Jack Maxwell (pictured here at left) drinks for a living. From moss schnapps in Iceland to gut-busting raki in Turkey and homebrew in the Himalayas, he's learned the hard way that tippler's truism: "It's always five o'clock somewhere." Maxwell is the host of Booze Traveler, which debuted this month on the Travel Channel. Part travelogue, part drinking diary, Booze Traveler takes viewers with Maxwell as he travels to Louisiana, Tennessee and 13 foreign countries, including Armenia, Belize, Lithuania, Mongolia and Nepal. Jaw-dropping scenery serves as a backdrop for many of Maxwell's adventures. In South Africa, he awakes to zebra, impala and giraffes grazing on the sun-dappled savannah, describing it as the perfect hangover cure. Each hour-long episode is a quest to distill the essence of a place through its beers, wines and spirits — a lighthearted look at the world through the lens of a glass. "Every society in history has come up with some form of alcohol to celebrate, to mourn, to take the edge off a long day," he says. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Shake off party nights with a round of golf

Las Vegas. Sin City might be best known for its gambling and night life, but its luxe links are worth a wake-up call

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

The Las Vegas National Golf Club is the site of Tiger Woods' first PGA-Tour win in 1996. CONTRIBUTED

In a city that never sleeps, world-class golf is as much a part of the scene as chorus girls, roulette wheels and morning-after regrets.

If the Hangover movies have taught us anything, it's that unbridled craziness is bound to happen at some point during a Las Vegas vacation.

That's why a round or two of golf is such an essential part of your itinerary. Nothing clears a head like a brisk 18 holes in the Nevada desert after a night of misadventures best forgotten.

With more than 50 courses, Sin City offers one of North America's most exciting golf scenes. There are extravagant big-ticket courses favoured by business moguls and movie stars, as well as superb layouts geared to every budget.

Of course, almost nobody goes to Las Vegas just for the golf. From wholesome fare such as Cirque de Soleil's acclaimed Beatles tribute show at the Mirage to an eye-popping pin-up themed revue starring a former Playboy Playmate of the Year at the Wynn Las Vegas, the entertainment possibilities are almost endless.

Among the hottest late-night clubs for those determined to party till dawn are LAX at the Luxor, The Bank at the Bellagio and Tao at the Venetian. But only the uninitiated and unhip even think of making their entrance before midnight.

Night owls biding their time might want to stop by the Cloud Nine Short Course at Angel Park Golf Club and play par-3 golf on floodlit fairways. But come the dawn, Angel Park is best known as the home of two excellent full-length 18-hole layouts, the Palm and Mountain courses, both designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay.

Part of the beauty of golf in Las Vegas is that several top courses are just a short cab ride from the Strip, eliminating the need for a rental car. Next door to the Mandalay Resort and Casino is the Bali Hai Golf Club, a gorgeous Schmidt-Curley design offering views of the towering casinos.

The best free show in Vegas

Bellagio Resort is justly famous for its fountains that erupt in a magnificent choreographed water ballet across man-made Bellagio Lake. A total of 1,214 spritzers shoot water up to 460 feet in the air every half-hour between 3 and 8 p.m., and every 15 minutes from then until midnight.

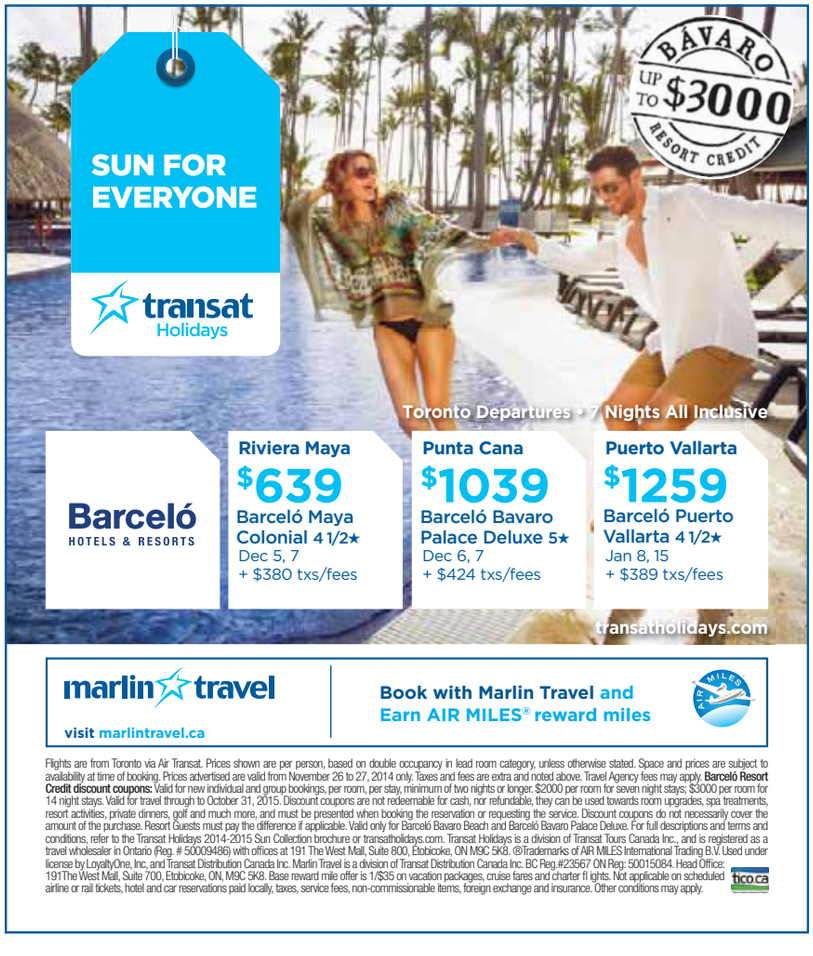
Also found in the heart of the city is Desert Pines Golf Club, a Carolina sandhills-style layout by the great Pete Dye. Another must-play is Las Vegas National Golf Club, famous as the site of Tiger Woods' first PGA-Tour victory in 1996.

So much fantastic golf, so little time. Among the most unique local courses is Bear's Best Las Vegas, featuring 18 reproductions of holes selected by Jack Nicklaus from the more than 270 courses he has designed around the world.

Other outstanding courses in or near Las Vegas include Royal Links Golf Club, Paiute Golf Resort and TPC Las Vegas.

Feel like splurging? Then book a tee time at fabulous Wynn Golf Club. The creation of hotel magnet Steve Wynn and superstar golf architect Tom Fazio, this public course in downtown Las Vegas has fairways as smooth as velvet and offers all the trappings of the most posh of private clubs.

The Wynn's green fee is a whopping $500 — but, hey, you can make that back with a roll of the dice later at the casino.



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Holidays

Gifts for the traveller on your list

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Do you have a globetrotter on your holiday gift list? Consider giving one of these travel-inspired presents.

The latest innovation in luggage is the TravelPro Crew 10 collection. Equipped with magnets, the MagnaTrac 360° wheels ensure your luggage rolls straight on any surface. A patented power-scope aluminum extension handle minimizes the wobble that many suitcases suffer from. The interior offers a full lid pocket and deluxe suite that keeps clothes wrinkle-free during your trip.

If your traveller believes in supporting sustainable tourism, they will love Lao-based Ock Pop Tok's 100% silk, handwoven Tai Muang scarf. Ock Pop Tok operates on a platform of fair trade, creating opportunities for local weavers to advance their skills, and providing a sustainable source of income for women and their communities. With three retail locations, a villa for guests and a creative arts and learning centre in Luang Prabang, the company strives to raise the profile of local textiles and artisans. Retailing for between $220 and $300, they aren't the cheapest scarves on the market, but they might be the only ones that help support a community.

Tai Muang scarf

Anyone who loves the trappings of a luxury hotel room will feel like they have brought their bedding home with them when they unwrap Sleep Country Canada's 100 per cent rayon Bamboo Dreams sheets. They are ultra-soft, get softer with each wash, are extremely durable and help regulate your body temperature. According to company co-founder Christine Magee, "The natural properties of bamboo make these sheets truly unique, durable and give you that high-end hotel feeling night after night." The sheets come in white, ivory, grey and mink.

'Beach time' watch

If you can't afford to send someone on a vacation, consider giving them a travel-inspired experience closer to home. Travelzoo.ca's deal experts have pulled together a collection of great deals starting from $15. Whether it's racing stock cars in Halifax to helicopter tours in the Rockies to a discount pass for nine of Toronto's top attractions, the options are endless. Go online to search deals from across Canada.

If you are on a tight budget consider a Do-It-Yourself gift. Last year at the start of my summer holiday, a friend helped me relax by forcing me to digitally detox. He replaced my watch with a "beach time" watch; an old timepiece with the mechanics replaced by sand. It cost nothing but was the perfect way to get my head in vacation-mode.

Healthy choices and flavour can coexist

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Herbed Chicken Breasts with Avocado Paste.

This dish, put together in no time, is big on texture and taste

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Healthy meals don't have to be flavourless.

By combining ingredients that offer up fresh flavour and different textures, you can create a delicious easy meal that your family will love.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in about 30 minutes or less

Serve up a colourful quinoa salad alongside this chicken dish to brighten up your dark evening dinner. The leftover combination will make a great salad. Or tuck the chicken into a pita with lettuce and tomato for a hearty sandwich.

1. In large bowl, toss together coriander, garlic, cumin and pepper with chicken breasts to coat evenly. (Make ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to eight hours.)

2. Heat large non-stick ovenproof skillet over medium high heat and brown chicken breasts evenly on both sides, about eight minutes. Place in 400 F (200 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink inside. Slice into thick slices.

3. Avocado Paste: Meanwhile, remove skin and pit from avocado and scoop flesh into bowl. Mash with fork until smooth. Stir in shallot, garlic, red pepper, vinegar and pinch pepper. Spoon avocado paste alongside chicken to serve. Sprinkle with coriander leaves before serving if desired.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh coriander or basil or Italian parsley
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) freshly ground pepper
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts (about 1 1/2 lbs/750 g)

Avocado Paste

- 1 ripe avocado
- Half small shallot, minced
- 1 small clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) finely diced red pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sherry vinegar
- Pinch pepper
- Fresh coriander leaves (optional)

Quinoa and Bean Salad

1. Place quinoa in fine mesh sieve. Rinse and drain. Place in nonstick skillet over medium high heat. Toast, stirring 6 minutes. Remove from heat.

2. Add broth to quinoa and bring to boil. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer for about 15 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Stir in green beans; cover and let cook for 5 minutes. Using fork, fluff quinoa and place in large bowl. Let cool slightly. Add tomatoes, carrot and parsley.

3. Dressing: In bowl, whisk orange juice, vinegar, oil, garlic and 1/2 tsp hot pepper sauce, if using. Drizzle over salad and toss. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 1 cup (250 ml) quinoa
- 2 cups (500 ml) chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) green beans
- 1 cup (250 ml) grape tomatoes
- 1 carrot, peeled and shredded
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) parsley

Dressing

3 tbsp (45 ml) orange juice
2 tbsp (30 ml) apple cider vinegar
1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil
1 clove garlic, minced

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My focus at work is getting a little fuzzy

Career. Factors outside our control can distract us at our desks, but there are ways to help you hone in on work

RIANA TOPAN
TalentEgg.ca

No matter where you work, you've probably found that it can sometimes be hard to concentrate. Maybe it's because a constant influx of emails keeps interrupting your workflow or because your office is open-concept and you can't close your door on the sound of your co-workers chatting, humming or talking on the phone. As the holidays draw closer, you may find it even harder to concentrate, particularly if those around you are more interested in talking about social engagements and exchanging cards. Whatever the case, here are a few things you can do to make it easier to concentrate:

We know you'll miss your mobile, but setting that little sucker aside at the busiest times of your day will help to keep your eyes on the professional prize.
ISTOCK

Get comfortable
It's hard to concentrate if you're not comfortable in your workspace.

If you work at a desk, adjust your seat so you're sitting with a straight back and your feet firmly on the floor. Next, adjust your monitor to make sure that your screen is at eye level and your hands are resting on your keyboard with your elbows bent at approximately a 90-degree angle. If your workplace is too warm or too cool for your liking and you're not able to control the overall temperature, dress appropriately. Try wearing layers if you're sensitive to heat or cold, or if your office temperature tends to fluctuate throughout the day.

Put your phone away
This may be tough if you're used to keeping your phone near you, but it can have a huge impact on your productivity. Your phone can be really distracting if it's constantly alerting you of incoming messages. Put it on silent and move it out of sight, at least while you're working on anything that requires a high level of concentration.

Tidy up
Take a bit of time to straighten up your desk before settling in to work on a project so that your mind doesn't wander to the teetering piles of papers and dirty dishes stacked around you. Try to get into the habit of setting aside five to 10 minutes at the start or end of every workday to tidy up your workspace. In addition to improving your focus, it will also set a good example to your co-workers and show them that you make an effort to stay organized.

Set a schedule
Make a list of what you want to accomplish each day — you're more likely to force yourself to focus if you know that you only have X amount of time to work on each task.

You should also schedule in breaks so that you don't forget to give yourself a rest. Plus, having a scheduled break to look forward to might also make it easier to buckle down.

Assemble everything you know you'll need so that you're not scrambling to find important notes and documents while you're in the middle of working, since that can disrupt your workflow.

Silence notifications
Set your email, social media and other notifications to silent while you're working if you find yourself losing focus every time you get a new alert. If you get a lot of emails over the course of your day, you may want to close your email program for an hour or two so you can concentrate on the task at hand.

Gimme a break

Don't forget to take periodic breaks to give your eyes a break from your screen, stretch your legs and get a drink of water or a snack.

- Use an app to remind yourself to get up and stretch if you won't remember to do it on your own or set an alarm to help you follow some kind of routine, like working for 55 minutes then taking a five-minute break.
- It's important to make sure that you also eat well and stay hydrated, so be sure to have a solid breakfast and lunch and drink plenty of water throughout the day. It will give you the energy you need to power through your day and will stop you from getting distracted by hunger or thirst.

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4 SPORTS

Athletes speak up

Reactions on Twitter to a grand jury's decision not to indict officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.:

"The system enables young black men to be killed behind the mask of law #Ferguson #tippingpoint #change"
Kobe Bryant

"Wow. Just wow. Shameful. What will it take???"
Serena Williams

"Disgusted by decision in furguson. Racism is learned. Accepted is systematic suffocation of education and opportunity. What are we saying?" Steve Nash

"As a society how do we do better and stop things like this happening time after time!! ... Violence is not the answer people. Retaliation isn't the solution as well. #PrayersUpToTheFamilies #WeHaveToDoBetter" LeBron James

Clutch heroics 'just the DNA of Kyle'

NBA. Lowry's knack for late-game playmaking has Raps thriving where they once capitulated

Kyle Lowry goes to the floor with Raptors teammate Amir Johnson to force a jump ball with the Suns' Isaiah Thomas on Monday night in Toronto. Lowry won the late-game jump, helping Toronto secure victory. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This is pretty heady company.

As the discussion of Kyle Lowry focuses on his willingness to take a big shot, his ability to make a big play, his knack for dominating the game-changing moments, teammates and coaches trot out some big-time names.

"He kind of reminds me of Chauncey (Billups)," was how Amir Johnson put it, evoking comparisons to a former NBA Finals MVP known as "Mr. Big Shot."

"We had Gary Payton in Seattle; he reminds me so much of Gary in those situations," says coach Dwane Casey, going further and liking the Raptors point guard to a hall of famer.

Pretty heady company, indeed.

Lowry has shown an uncanny ability to make big plays at big moments in a wondrous start to the season for the Raptors, and the interesting thing about it is the variety of ways he does it.

In Boston, he had a shocking strip of an over-matched rookie and a no-look drop pass to DeMar DeRozan that sealed a win.

Against Utah, he made a clutch shot in the dying minutes that basically sealed a win.

Monday against Phoenix, he had an amazing few seconds that included a blocked shot, a steal, an assist and an offensive foul charged that was a tour de force. And all that was eclipsed in the final 30 seconds by another steal off Isaiah Thomas and a jump ball that was the defining late-game play in Toronto's fifth straight win. The win pushed the Raptors record to 12-2 and into a tie with the Memphis Grizzlies for the NBA's best mark.

Fourth right

10-0

Led by Kyle Lowry's late-game big plays, Toronto is 10-0 this season when it leads a game going into the fourth quarter and 4-0 in games decided by four points or fewer. In past years, the Raptors tended to collapse late. So far this season, they have thrived.

"He can't tell you the technique he uses; he just gets it done," said Casey. "A loose ball on the floor, he's going to come up with it; a charge to be taken, he's going to get it. Last night, it was a blocked shot (and) at his size, he got it. He just finds a way in those situations to get it done and it's just the DNA of Kyle."

Adds Johnson: "He takes the big shots, the clutch shots, he keeps going, always keeps the motor going, just like Chauncey."

Proving that it is truly instinctual, Lowry can't explain how he does what he does when he does it. In the speed of the game and at frenetic moments, there isn't time to think; there's just time to react. He's repeatedly called them simply "basketball plays," and that's probably the best description.

Even if there's no way to figure out where those instincts come from.

"Playing basketball?" he asks rhetorically. "Playing basketball for 20-something years of my life, it just happens. You've got a feel for certain situations at certain times in a game.

"I think you just have it. If you've got it, you've (got) it from the day you start playing the game, to be honest."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLB. Red Sox rein in Sandoval and Ramirez

Pablo Sandoval and Hanley Ramirez spent the last two seasons as NL West rivals. Now they're teammates in Boston, the result of a $183-million spending spree the Red Sox are hoping will lift them out of the AL East cellar.

"It's exciting for me to be with Hanley and David Ortiz," Sandoval said Tuesday at Fenway Park after finishing up a five-year, $95-million contract that adds him to a lineup he called "The Three Amigos."

Hanley Ramirez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Red Sox later announced Ramirez's four-year deal, which is worth $88 million.

A former Sox prospect, Ramirez was traded to the Marlins nine Thanksgivings ago in a deal that brought Mike Lowell and Josh Beckett to Boston. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Corruption scandal

FIFA's rep will take 'years to rebuild,' admits Valcke

FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said Tuesday that it will take "years to rebuild our reputation" following the World Cup bidding corruption investigation. Allegations of bribery and favour-seeking have engulfed FIFA since Russia was awarded the 2018 World Cup and Qatar got the 2022 hosting gig. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Subban leads first round of all-star voting

Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban was the top vote-getter after the first week of fan voting for the 2015 NHL all-star game in Columbus on Jan. 25.

Subban led all players with 100,133 votes, while teammate Carey Price led all goaltenders with 83,612 votes. Pittsburgh Penguins forward Sidney Crosby was tops among forwards and sat second overall with 87,858 votes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

P.K. Subban GETTY IMAGES

Aguero shows Bayern the City

Thrilling match. With a hat trick, Argentine striker saves Man City's chances in the Champions League

Sergio Aguero scored a hat trick, including two late goals, to inspire Manchester City to a 3-2 win over 10-man Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday, reviving the English champions' chances of reaching the knockout stage.

Aguero, who put City ahead with a 21st-minute penalty that led to the sending-off of defender Mehdi Benatia, consigned Bayern to a first competitive loss this season by capitalizing on defensive errors to score again in the 85th and then in the first minute of stoppage time.

City is tied on five points with Roma and CSKA Moscow in Group E, seven behind already-qualified Bayern. Heading into the final round of group games, City needs to better CSKA's result at Bayern and improve its head-to-head against Roma, either beating the Italian side or achieving a higher-scoring draw than 1-1.

"This team never knows it is beaten," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said. "I am sure that this kind of victory gives a lot of trust to the whole squad."

Bayern fielded a weakened team with progress belied its numerical inferiority by coming from behind to lead at Etihad Stadium, with Xabi Alonso and Robert Lewandowski scoring in the final five minutes of the first half.

Somehow, despite picking up just two points from its first four group matches, City can still qualify for the last 16. Its chances would have been very slim without Aguero's late intervention at the same end of Etihad Stadium where the Argentina striker won the Premier League title for City with an injury-time goal on the last day of the 2011-12 season.

"We gave them the game," Bayern coach Pep Guardiola said. "They had hardly any chances with 11 against 10.... We were tired in the last 10 minutes."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One more record

72

Barcelona thrashed APOEL 4-0 Tuesday as Lionel Messi scored a hat trick to set a Champions League scoring record. Messi's first goal in the 38th minute was his 72nd Champions League goal, beating 71 by former Real Madrid and Schalke striker Raul.

metro AR **Manchester City's Sergio Aguero celebrates after scoring the match-winning goal against Bayern Munich on Tuesday at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. The Argentine striker scored twice in stoppage time to complete a hat trick, saving Man City's prospects of making the last 16 in the Champions League. Scan the image with your Metro News app for a roundup of the rest of Tuesday's action around Europe.** ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

Q1 Leafs observations

The Toronto Maple Leafs are 11-8-2 through 21 games this season. Here's a look at what the team has achieved.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Photos by Torstar News Service and Getty Images

Improvements

The Leafs are showing good signs of strength at centre after years of questions.

Tyler Bozak is third in the NHL in faceoff wins (269) and third in takeaways. Peter Holland is seventh in takeaways, while Leo Komarov is first (23).

Phil Kessel is looking at improving his 11th-highest rating for giveaways (21), but the general numbers are not begging for massive improvement.

Leadership

Dion Phaneuf definitely leads the team, but the Leafs have several other players who are influential.

One big example was the team's decision not to salute fans after a win last week. The Leafs vowed to maintain the non-salute, but erased that decision the very next game following a turnaround apparently spearheaded by words from veteran defenceman Stephane Robidas.

Goaltending

Leafs fans can expect to see more of Jonathan Bernier in net now that his performances have solidified.

At the moment, both Bernier and James Reimer sport numbers that are relatively good, considering the overall inconsistency with the team's defensive play. But the Leafs will need Bernier to establish himself, both as a true No. 1 and as a top-10 goalie in the league, for the Leafs to challenge for a higher seed in the playoff ladder.

Coaching

Randy Carlyle and his staff have made some good calls of late: cutting down the ice time of the top line; giving Peter Holland more penalty kill time after the third-line centre approached them to ask for that opportunity; and helping Nazem Kadri through his offensive dry spell with smart line shuffles and continued power-play time.

Scouting the Leafs

There's no ready recipe to slam dunk the Leafs anymore.

It used to be, right up to a few weeks ago, get the puck in and make them play defence — and wait for the turnovers and coverage collapses. But the Leafs are actually an improved team in own-zone play and physicality in all areas of the ice. They are tough to play against when they play structured hockey and they now invite teams to dump the puck in.

What's next?

A very tough schedule, for starters. Mix in a huge road trip post Christmas, due to the World Junior Championship in Toronto, and the Leafs have a monumental task ahead of them in the next 20 games.

2015 Hyundai Genesis

- **Type.** Four-door, AWD luxury sedan
- **Engines.** 3.8-litre V6 (311 hp), 5.0-litre V8 (420)
- **Transmission.** Eight-speed automatic
- **Price.** $44,995 base, $54,995 as tested

Market position

The original Genesis sedan, introduced in 2008, was Hyundai's first foray into the luxury segment. It's a premium car that is less expensive than its comparably sized and equipped rivals. Along with big brother Equus, Genesis is a showcase for Hyundai's technological capabilities.

Points

- Debuts Hyundai's new AWD system, which is standard on all models.
- Greater focus on handling prowess, with a suspension tuned by Lotus engineers.
- First vehicle styled in the next stage of Hyundai's Fluidic Sculpture design.
- Advanced lane-keeping technology makes Genesis almost a self-driving car on the highway.

The cabin is appealing, with copious amounts of wood grain and leather.

Safety features

Nine airbags, adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go capabilities, autonomous emergency braking, blind-spot detection with rear-traffic alert, lane-departure warning, lane-changing assist, C02 sensor control system, AWD active cornering control can apply brakes to the inside rear wheel, for better handling.

Luxury without the price

Review. Hyundai's second-generation Genesis now handles better and looks even better inside and out

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ

This second-generation Hyundai Genesis is not a revelation. It is a competent and attractive luxury sedan, but we are not surprised. Hyundai has a long and successful track record of striding into new territories, making each successive model better, and repeating the exercise at a brisk pace.

The first Genesis, which debuted in 2008, was a solid crack at the luxury market. But there was room for improvement, particularly with the ride and handling. Hyundai called in the engineering troops from Lotus to sort out the dynamics, and it really paid off. Some rivals, such as the Cadillac CTS and the Audi A6, are sportier, but this Genesis is one sweet ride, with an enviable blend of comfort and swerve-ability.

The handling is helped by an all-new, sophisticated AWD system, which moves torque around to exploit the progressive characteristics of the rear-wheel-drive platform. (Steering feel, however, is a little numb.)

The V6 and V8 engine options are carried over from the first Genesis, as is the eight-speed automatic transmission, which shifts beautifully.

Although a 5.0-litre V8 is available, our tester had the base 311-hp 3.8-litre V8, which pretty much overpowers any of the other base engines in this class, many of which have settled on 2.0-L turbos.

Styling is subjective, but to these eyes, the exterior look is another area where Genesis excels — an intriguing blend of aggression and elegance. Inside is equally appealing, with lots of wood grain and leather.

The rear seating area is commodious, and underscores the fact that Genesis is bigger than most of its rivals.

As with any luxury car today, Genesis boasts a long list of comfort, convenience and safety features. Highlights include a 12-way driver's seat, lane-keeping assist, an available 900-watt stereo with 17 speakers and Logic 7 surround sound, and the industry's first C02-sensing control system, which brings fresh air into the cabin when C02 levels get too high.

In fact, the only checklist boxes Genesis doesn't tick are "luxury brand cache" and "luxury dealership experience."

If you can live without those, you'll save a lot of money by choosing Genesis as your next luxury ride.

Compare

1 Acura RLX
Base price: $52,164
All-wheel steering. Heady hybrid model has oomph and AWD.

2 BMW 5 Series
Base price: $56,695
Canada's top seller in the class. Pricey, but potent.

3 Cadillac CTS
Base price: $52,695
Turbo I4, V6 and V8 engine options. All-new in 2014. Excellent driving dynamics.

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There's a lot more than gas in that pump

Driving Force. All oil companies add a secretive blend of stabilizers, detergents and friction modifiers

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

When you fill your tank with gasoline, what are you getting, exactly? It's refined petroleum, of course, but there are also several additives and detergents in the mix.

"Gasoline is made up of molecules, and when you refine it, you take the different streams (of refined fuel) and blend them," says Michael Howe, senior fuel scientist for Shell Global Solutions. "It has to meet a specification set by American Standard Testing and Materials, so when you buy something, you know what you're getting."

Additives primarily stabilize the gasoline, Howe says, so its components don't react with one another and form deposits or gums that can possibly foul the engine. Other additives can include friction modifiers, which make it easier for the pistons to slide in their cylinders.

Gasoline contains several additives and detergents to improve performance and protect your engine. CONTRIBUTED

Additive blends also include detergents, which are similar to soap. When engines burn gasoline vapour, it creates carbon, which sticks to the valves. Known as engine gunk, these deposits can reduce the engine's efficiency if they build up too much.

"The detergents are like a soap molecule, with a long tail and a small, reactive, polar head," Howe says. "The long tail keeps it soluble, but when it comes across the deposits, the polar head gets stuck on the deposit and the interaction pulls off chunks of it. Then they're carried into the combustion chamber where they're burned.

"This continues until the deposits are gone off the valve. It's essentially doing the same thing as soap when it interacts with greasy soil, but it's not water-soluble, it's gasoline-soluble."

As the name implies, additives are put into the gasoline, blended together into what's called an additive package. After the fuel is refined, the refinery pumps it into a pipeline, where it goes to a distribution centre and is stored in tanks. When it's time to deliver it to gas stations, the fuel is pumped out of the tank and into a truck, and, at this point, the additive package is added to the fuel.

Although all companies use additives, the components in each package are proprietary, and their ingredients are a closely guarded secret.

"Refining fuel is a standard, specific action, but it's never exactly the same," Howe says. "You have to put in additives to correct it, or keep instabilities from happening."

Fast facts

- Gasoline contains octane, which controls how easily it will combust, but it isn't an additive. Instead, the level of octane is set during the refining process.
- Diesel fuel also contains additives. Sometimes diesel is also dyed red, indicating that it's for farm machinery, and that its price doesn't include road taxes. However, it's illegal to use dyed diesel in regular vehicles, and the colour lets authorities know if it's being used improperly.
- Since additives do vary, try another brand of gasoline if you're not seeing the engine performance or mileage you think you should be getting.

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦♦$9,000 is a combined credit consisting of a $4,000 manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive), $1,000 Fall Bonus for truck owners (tax inclusive), $1,000 Black Friday Bonus (tax inclusive) and $3,000 manufacturer-to-dealer cash credit (tax exclusive) for 2014 Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty (1500) Double Cab, which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this $3,000 credit, which will result in higher effective interest rates. Discount varies by model and excludes Silverado Double Cab 2WD 1WT. ♦♦/***Freight & PDI ($1,695), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2014 or 2015 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014MY Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 km, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ▲Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details. ~~~Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer pickup truck that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit is a manufacturer-to-consumer incentive (tax inclusive): $1,000 credit available towards the retail purchase, cash purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014 or 2015 model year Chevrolet or GMC light or heavy duty pickup (excluding Colorado/Canyon); delivered in Canada between November 1 and December 1, 2014. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. *Offer valid to eligible retail lessees in Canada who have obtained credit approval by and entered into a lease agreement with GM Financial, and who accept delivery from November 1, 2014 through December 1, 2014 of a new or demonstrator 2014 Chevrolet Cruze, 2014 Chevrolet Sonic or any new 2015 model year Chevrolet. 2015 City Express excluded at outset of program; will be eligible once residuals become available. General Motors of Canada will pay one month's lease payment or two bi-weekly lease payments as defined on the lease agreement (inclusive of taxes). After the first month, lessee will be required to make all remaining scheduled payments over the remaining term of the lease agreement. PPSA/RDPRM is not due. Consumer may be required to pay Dealer Fees. Insurance, licence and applicable taxes not included. Additional conditions and limitations apply. GM reserves the right to modify or terminate this offer at any time without prior notice. See dealer for details. ¥$1,000 Black Friday Bonus is a manufacturer-to-consumer delivery credit (tax inclusive) available on the retail purchase or lease of 2014 or 2015 model year Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty (1500) Double Cab and Chevrolet Silverado HD (gas engine only) delivered in Canada between November 28 and December 1, 2014. $750 Black Friday Bonus is a manufacturer-to-consumer delivery credit (tax inclusive) available on the retail purchase or lease of 2014 or 2015 model year Chevrolet Cruze delivered in Canada between November 28 and December 1, 2014.

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Starting From Price for 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown: $31,490§

Starting From Price for 2015 Chrysler 200 S shown: $28,790§

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2014 ULTIMATE JOURNEY PACKAGES STILL AVAILABLE
PACKAGE VALUED AT **$7,140‘** – YOU PAY ONLY **$2,145!‘‘**

Starting From Price for 2015 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: $31,785§

Starting From Price for 2014 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab shown: $41,390§

ALL 2014 RAM TRUCKS MUST GO

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+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

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Wise customers read the fine print: ▲, ◊, †, •, *, ‡, †, €, ★, », ▬, § The Black Friday Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers between November 21 and 28, 2014. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,695), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ▲The Make No Payments for 90 Days is a limited time offer which applies to retail customers who finance a new 2014/2015 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram or FIAT vehicle (except 2014 Dodge Avenger SE and 2014/2015 Dodge Viper) at a special fixed rate on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, TD Auto Finance or Scotiabank. Offer does not apply to Scotiabank special rate financing contracts longer than 90 months. Monthly/bi-weekly/weekly payments will be deferred for 60 days and contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. Customers will be responsible for any required down payment, license, registration and insurance costs at time of contract. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ◊$10,500 in Total Discounts is available on the new 2014 Ram 1500 Quad/Crew Cab SXT 4x4 models and consists of $8,500 Consumer Cash Discount, $1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash and $500 Bonus Cash. †0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan/2014 Dodge Journey models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2014 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$19,995 with a $0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of $256.35/$256.35 with a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $19,995/$19,995. •$500 Bonus Cash is available on select new 2014 Dodge or Ram models at participating retailers from November 21-28 only. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price after taxes. Offer available at participating Ontario and Atlantic retailers. See retailer for complete details and exclusions. *Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on new select models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2015 Chrysler 200 LX (28A)/2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F)/2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$19,995/$19,995/$26,095, with a $0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $112/$112/$112/$147 with a cost of borrowing of $3,394/$3,394/$3,394/$4,429 and a total obligation of $23,388.63/$23,388.63/$23,388.63/$30,523.95. €$5,125 in Package Value available on the new 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G) model based on the following MSRP options: $850 Climate Group, $1,925 Single DVD Entertainment, $1,500 SXT Plus Group and $850 Uconnect Hands-Free Group. $7,140 in Package Value available on the new 2014 Dodge Journey SXT Ultimate Journey Package (JCDP4928K) model based on the following MSRP options: $1,475 Flexible Seating Group, $1,200 Rear Seat DVD, $525 Convenience Group, $2,645 Navigation & Sound Group and $1,295 Sunroof. See your retailer for complete details. ★Discounts available at participating retailers on the purchase/lease of only the following new vehicles. 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT with Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G). Discount consists of: $850 in no-cost options and $2,500 DVD Incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. 2014 Dodge Journey SXT with Ultimate Journey Package (JCDP4928K). Discount consists of: $2,495 in no-cost options and $2,500 DVD Incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. »$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2014 Ram 1500 (excludes Reg. Cab), 2014 Ram 2500/3500, 2014 Ram ProMaster or 2014 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before November 1, 2014. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed an Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. Limit one $1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ▬Non-prime financing available on approved credit. APR example: 2014 Ram 1500 ST and SXT with a Purchase Price of $26,095 financed at 4.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $170 for a total finance obligation of $30,970.95. §Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

L.A. auto show. Drives like a BMW but runs on electric power: Compact i3 is named Green Car of the Year

BMW's first-ever plug-in electric vehicle was named Green Car of the Year during a ceremony at L.A. auto show.

The i3 was the only electric car among the five finalists in contention for the award, which recognizes environmental leadership in the automotive field and is presented each year by Green Car Journal.

The other finalists were the Chevrolet Impala Bi-Fuel, the Audi A3 TDI, the Honda Fit and the Volkswagen Golf.

The i3 has a 170-hp electric motor and a range of 160 km. But what makes the car stand out against other plug-in electrics are its handling and performance characteristics. It can hit 100 km/h in 7.2 seconds and offers the same driving dynamics as BMW's gas-powered cars.

However, what tipped the scales in BMW's favour for the award was its zero emissions and the high percentage of sustainably produced materials used in the car's construction.

The i3 starts at $44,950 in Canada and qualifies for a green-car rebate of up to $8,500 in some provinces. AFP

The BMW i3 has a 170-hp electric motor and a range of 160 km on a single charge. But what makes the compact car stand out against other plug-in electrics are its handling and performance characteristics. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Custom Toyota van features a toothy grin and a bubble-blowing roof. AFP

L.A. auto show. SpongeBob inspires custom Sienna

Car designers draw their inspiration from many places — nature, sci-fi novels, the works of Picasso or Matisse. Or, in the case of the concept car gracing the L.A. auto show, a Nickelodeon cartoon character.

SpongeBob SquarePants is one of the world's truly global cultural icons, and Toyota has done its best to bring the character to life in vehicular form.

The windshield of the customized Sienna minivan is adorned with SpongeBob's eyes and his buck-toothed grin. The roof features his Superhero Incredibubble mask and even blows real bubbles.

Inside, the van has a blue, wood-grain dashboard and a ship's wheel. Each of the seats references one of SpongeBob's friends, and the floor mats have a sandy, textured finish.

Following the auto show, the van will head off on a promotional tour to publicize the next SpongeBob SquarePants film, due out in February. AFP

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Receive $500 towards 2014 Focus, Fiesta, or C-MAX, and $750 towards 2014 Escape, Fusion, Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Escape, Expedition, Transit Connect, F-Series, or 2014 F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader) / 2014 C-MAX, 2015 Transit Connect Wagon XL, 2015 Fiesta S Manual, Edge / 2014 F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader) and 2015 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL) / 2014 F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab / 2014 Mustang V6 Coupe and Taurus SE / 2015 F-150 SuperCab and Super Crew / 2014 F-Series / 2014 Flex / 2014 Taurus (excluding SE) / 2014 Mustang V6 Premium / 2015 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab) Gas engine / 2014 Expedition / 2014 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)/2014 F-150 Super Crew 4x4 XLT 300A/ 2014 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab/a) Diesel Engine – all chassis cab, stripped chassis, cutaway body, F-150 Raptor, Medium Truck, Mustang Boss 302 and Shelby GT500 excluded. Offers are not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP, Daily Rental Allowance and AX/ZZ/D/F-Plan programs. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ‡Until December 1, 2014, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford Edge, and Escape models for up to 60 months, and Focus, C-MAX, Fusion (excluding HEV and PHEV) models for up to 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 60/72 months, monthly payment is $416.66/ $347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0%, and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ◊Offer only valid from November 1, 2014 to December 1, 2014 (the "Program Period") to Canadian resident customers who currently (during the Program Period) own or are leasing certain Ford car, Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), Cross-Over Utility Vehicle (CUV), Minivan, and Pickup Truck models (each a "Qualifying Loyalty Model"), or certain competitive car, Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), Cross-Over Utility Vehicle (CUV), Minivan, or pickup truck with a pickup bed models (each a "Qualifying Conquest Model"). Qualifying customers will receive $1,000 with the purchase, lease, or factory order (during the Program Period) of a new qualifying 2014 Ford Fusion, Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Escape, Expedition, Transit Connect, F-Series, or 2014 F-150 SuperCrew, 2014/2015 F-250 to F-450, or $1,500 with the purchase, lease, or factory order (during the Program Period) of a new qualifying 2014 Ford F-150 Regular Cab or SuperCab models – all Raptor and 2015 F-150 models are excluded (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Some eligibility restrictions apply on Qualifying Loyalty and Conquest Models and Eligible Vehicles – see dealer for full offer criteria. Eligible Vehicle must be delivered and/or factory ordered from participating Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited dealer's inventory. Offer(s) may not be transferred, assigned or redeemed for cash and is subject to change without notice. Dealer may sell for less or lease for more than the MSRP. 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Offers are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ¥Until December 1, 2014, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford Edge, and Escape models for up to 60 months, and Focus, C-MAX, Fusion (excluding HEV and PHEV) models for up to 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 60/72 months, monthly payment is $416.66/ $347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0%, and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ≠Offer only valid from November 27, 2014 to December 1, 2014 (the "Program Period") to Canadian resident customers. 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Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

SUV's paint captures power from the sun and the wind

At the opening of its Mercedes-Benz Product Engineering Center in Beijing, China, the luxury automaker unveiled a concept car powered not just by hydrogen, but by its own paint. The Vision G-Code SUV (named with the Chinese market in mind) sports "multi-voltaic" paint that harvests solar and wind energy. Mercedes said the paint acts like a giant solar cell "with excellent efficiency," and can be charged electrostatically by the relative wind caused by driving, or by the natural wind when the vehicle is stationary. The G-Code also features "power on the move" suspension, which recovers energy from the motion of the suspension to generate electricity.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

One of the most exciting claims about the Mercedes G-Code is that its paint collects power from both the sun and the wind. How much power? Good question. But the concept SUV also runs on hydrogen.

Seaweed biofuel saves farms for food

Seaweed — kelp, in particular — shows promising signs of becoming a biofuel feedstock, thanks to a newly designed hydrothermal process that greatly increases the amount of bio-oil that can be extracted from it. As a fuel source that doesn't take up farmland or use water that would otherwise be used to grow crops, kelp also grows extremely quickly. Researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology said their variation on a process known as hydrothermal liquefaction — rapidly heating a slurry of kelp and water, then holding it briefly at a high temperature (585 Celsius) — results in 79 per cent of the biomass being converted to bio-oil. Previous efforts resulted in just a 19 per cent conversion rate.

A new process can turn kelp into a source material for bio-fuel.

Shift points

- A U.S. National Public Radio report says sales of hybrids, plug-ins and electric vehicles are down in that country by about five per cent this year, while trucks and SUVs have seen 17- and 20-per-cent increases.
- After saying it would not replace its compact Ranger pickup with a new compact truck, Ford appears to be having a change of heart. Company marketing manager Dave Scott told USA Today the company is "seriously considering" an entry-level compact.
- Researchers at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., have designed a lithium-sulphur battery with four times the longevity of typical lithium-sulphur batteries. That's significant because a typical sulphur battery already holds four times the energy per mass of lithium-ions.

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British EV service company aims to lead by example

A British company that installs electric-vehicle charging stations has bought a Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid so it can practise what it preaches. Chris Everett, managing director of EV Charging Solutions in Nottingham, opted for the vehicle after seeing his business expand rapidly. Everett said company sales figures show more drivers are buying low-emission, plug-in vehicles. The Outlander PHEV was "a no-brainer," because "if you run out of electric power, you can run it on petrol, so there's no anxiety." Having a plug-in hybrid "shows that we take these vehicles seriously, and that we practise what we preach." The Outlander PHEV is due to go on sale in North America late in 2015s

Chris Everett of EV Charging Solutions bought an Outlander plug-in hybrid to practice what he preaches.

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Design. Henrik Fisker turns a custom Mustang into the ultimate muscle car

The Galpin Rocket, unveiled at the L.A. auto show, is a bespoke take on the Ford Mustang and one that is likely to come with a $100,000-plus price tag when it goes into limited production.

But what makes it a standout car is the man who designed it. Henrik Fisker is responsible for some of the world's most elegant cars, from the BMW Z8 to Aston Martin's Vantage and DB9. Although his Fisker Karma luxury hybrid was a beautiful car, the business went under two years ago.

The Rocket is a very impressive way to make a comeback. Described as the ultimate muscle car, it was created in partnership with Galpin Motors, the world's largest Ford dealer. Power will come from a highly modified version of Ford's current V8, complete with supercharger — capable of outputting 725 hp and will be as fast as any Mustang ever.

"I love the '60s American muscle cars," said Fisker. "My favourite Mustang is the 1968 Shelby GT500 ... it gave me butterflies the first time I saw it. We wanted to recreate that feeling with this car." AFP

The Galpin Rocket is a current-model Ford Mustang highly customized by famed designer Henrik Fisker. AFP

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Urban transport. Mini scooter folds into trunk

Mini has been pondering the future of urban mobility and it thinks it has the answer: a foldaway scooter.

The CitySurfer Concept is a foot-powered two-wheel scooter, and a rather smart-looking one, thanks to some design cues taken from Mini's own styling manual.

The scooter's chunky pneumatic tires should flatten out the lumps and smooth the ride over bumpier roads and, when not in use, it folds down into something easy to carry in a bag or in the trunk of a car.

Kick scooters are already a common sight in most major cities, either ridden by kids on the way to school or commuters completing the final leg of the daily journey into the office. What makes Mini's CitySurfer stand out is that it has an electric motor integrated into its rear-wheel hub that gives it a top speed of 25 km/h. In order to fire up the motor, you have to start riding the scooter under foot power alone. Once you hit a certain speed, the motor kicks in and can be controlled by a thumb-trigger accelerator. There's also a smartphone mount for riders who want to access a navigation app or keep the handset's battery topped up.

The scooter's lithium ion battery, which is an integral part of the frame, is good for 25 kilometres before it needs recharging. It can also recapture energy from braking and use it to top up the battery.

When the battery is dead, the CitySurfer still operates like a normal kick-scooter, and it can be recharged through the 12-volt power socket found inside most cars. AFP

Mini's motorized CitySurfer scooter has a top speed of 25 km/h. AFP

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SL AWD Premium model shown with Accessory Roof Rail Crossbars▲

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Sporty and spunky, especially with AWD

Second gear.
2007 to 2014
Suzuki SX4

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Although Suzuki will finish pulling out of the Canadian market by the end of 2014, its SX4 has been available here since 2007 — as both a compact sedan and a five-door hatch, similar to the Ford Fiesta and Subaru Impreza.

The SX4 offered good driving dynamics, a flexible cabin, good visibility and decent reliability. The hatchback could be optioned with all-wheel drive.

Standard features included cruise control, air conditioning, tinted windows, remote entry, tilt steering, power locks, an auto-dimming rearview mirror, heated seats, leather-wrapped accents and in-dash CD changer.

There are plenty of used models available from 2007 to '10 in the sub-$10,000 price range.

Common Issues

Look for any signs of vibration at speed, which could be the result of a bad driveshaft or CV joints. The vibration may be accompanied by a rhythmic ticking or clunking sound.

A roaring noise, or a loud hum at speed, could be the result of a bad wheel bearing. Have a mechanic take a look.

Note that some owners have reported the engine taking a while to fire up when started, which could be a computer issue that requires a re-flash.

Avoid models that have been lifted or subjected to other suspension modifications, especially on SX4 AWD models, since modifying the factory setup can result in blown struts and worn-out wheel bearings.

If the heat, AC or climate control system in general seems poor, a plugged cabin air filter is the likely culprit.

Other checks are fairly minor. A hood or hatch that won't stay open on its own may need new hood struts, which are cheap and easy to repair.

A rattle from beneath the car is likely an exhaust heat shield that's' become rusted and loose. It should be replaced, but it can likely be removed with a pair of channellocks and some biceps, for free.

Non-functional air conditioning is likely caused by a bad compressor and/or compressor clutch. These repairs build on each other, so have a mechanic determine whether the car needs a new compressor clutch, or the entire compressor and clutch assembly.

Finally, note that AWD models have more rigorous servicing requirements, with 30,000-km intervals specified for certain fluid changes.

CONTRIBUTED

What owners like

Generous headroom, all-season traction with the AWD system, the ability to switch the AWD system on and off with a switch as required, an easy-to-use Bluetooth system and good fuel efficiency.

What owners dislike

Complaints tend to centre around a less-than-impressive factory stereo, road noise at speed, and the desire for a bit more than 150 horsepower to move the car along.

Engines

All models got a 2-litre four-cylinder engine with 140 to 150 horsepower. Manual or automatic transmissions could be had with either model, including the AWD hatch.

The verdict

Providing that the SX4 you're considering passes some fairly simple mechanical checks, a well-maintained model will likely provide affordable access to a fairly reliable car loved for its all-season confidence, distinctiveness and sporty driving character.

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

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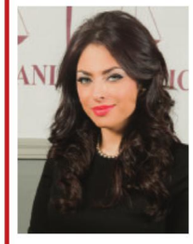

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may feel out of step with others today but sometimes you just have to do your own thing, in your own way, at your own speed. Maybe it's everyone else who is out of step.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you get criticized today — and with Saturn strong in your opposite sign that is almost guaranteed — don't react as if the world is coming to an end.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
What you visualize over the next 24 hours is what you will be able to do in weeks to come, so don't dismiss genuine insights as fantasy.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You need to find a solution to either a money matter or a relationship issue. The way out of your predicament is obvious really but it will also be costly. Act and pay now or pay an even larger penalty later.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Remember today that a loved one does not mean the negative things they have been saying. Like you they are under pressure that inevitably affects the way they speak and act.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's Mercury-Saturn link is a reminder that life is meant to be fun — and a warning that if you do too much you will pay for it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A dream you've had for years is about to become a reality. It may not come about in the way you expected. Recognize how fortunate you are and make the most of the opportunity.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You've made sacrifices in recent weeks and today's Mercury-Saturn union in your sign indicates there is something else you must do before you can move onto new pastures.

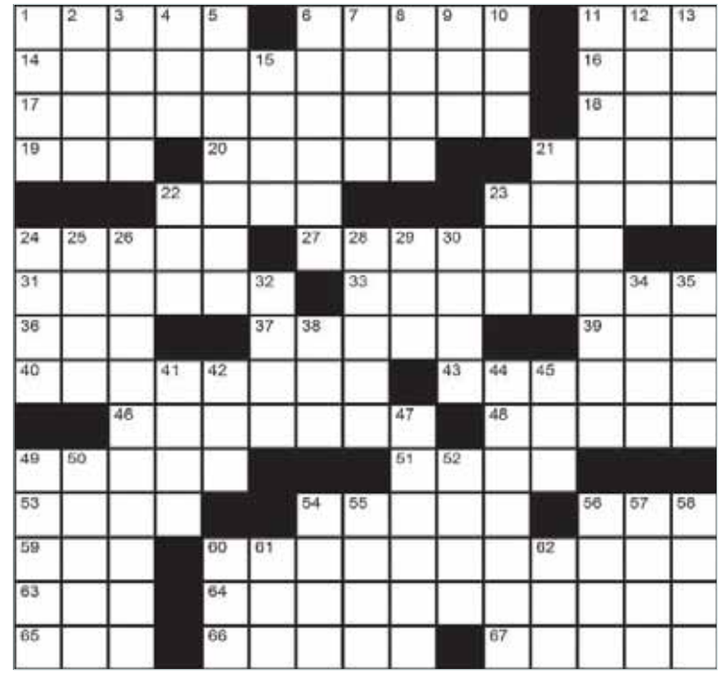
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try not to say anything too hurtful today or it may take weeks or even months to win back a loved one's trust.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more passionately someone tries to convince you of their honesty the more likely it is they want something. Keep your money in your pocket.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have an important message to get across and if the only way to make yourself heard is to shout then do it. You have been quiet long enough.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be convinced that you are in the right about something but do not push your case too hard over the next 24 hours. If others can't see the truth then they are the ones most likely to suffer for it.

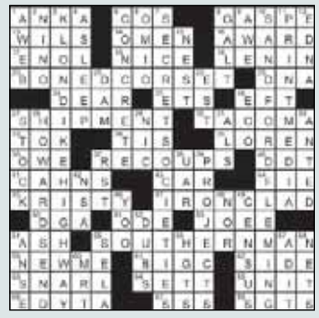
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Pari __ (Impartially)
6. Shakespeare: Julius Caesar conspirator
11. Humanities degs.
14. Submarine exit: 2 wds.
16. Away
17. 1965 James Bond movie for #60-Across
18. Gun gr.
19. Academic year div.
20. "Take _ __ for free." - The Band, "The Weight"
21. Split
22. Word's history [abbr.]
23. Bottomless pit
24. Stray calf [var. sp.]
27. Winter cap's one-of-two
31. "Help Me, __" by The Beach Boys
33. Educated/versed in books
36. Suffer
37. __ __ with nature
39. 'The Finals' gr.
40. 1970s musical for Canadian actor Victor Garber
43. Big name in movies
46. Decrease/slump
48. Negative/Positive
49. Ms. Deschanel of "Bones"
51. Bygone Ford cars
53. Typeface
54. Laissez-__
56. Soup sort
59. Lighthouse surrounder
60. Canadian actress, b.1927 - d.2007, who played the character at #11-Down in several 007 movies: 2 wds.
63. Anger
64. Some store staff: 2 wds.
65. 'Ballad' suffix
66. Canadian racecar driver Paul
67. Sammy of baseball, and surnamesakes

Down
1. Domesticated pals
2. Tennis legend Arthur
3. Soap __ (Bathroom cleanser's target)
4. __ Diego
5. Made current
6. 1950s car trimming
7. Rhyming scheme
8. Dutch city
9. Old Rome's 250
10. Calder Cup org.
11. As per #60-Across... M's secretary, Miss __
12. Visions of light
13. "The North" Canadian band
15. Moray-like
21. Up-the-slopes ride
22. "Ich bin __ Berliner." - JFK
23. Wholly
24. Burden
25. Toledo's locale
26. 1964 James Bond movie for #60-Across
28. "He's mad that trusts in the tameness of _ __." - Fool, in Shakespeare's King Lear
29. Kevin's "Footloose" (1984) role
30. Bolted
32. Biblical son
34. Have _ __ in one's bonnet
35. Calendar parts
38. Jeff Lynne's gr.
41. __ and vinegar chips
42. 2-__ tissue
44. Back pages of books
45. "Help!"
47. Not solid, as construction
49. __ Trinket, Elizabeth Banks' role in 'Hunger Games' movies
50. Actress Demi
52. Pitfall
54. Chick-__-_ (American restaurant chain)
55. "Gimme _ __..." (Wait)
56. Livelinesses
57. "__ the Elephant" (Canadian cartoon series)
58. Beers
60. Grocery-shopper's li'l paper
61. Dinghy director
62. Romance

Yesterday's Crossword

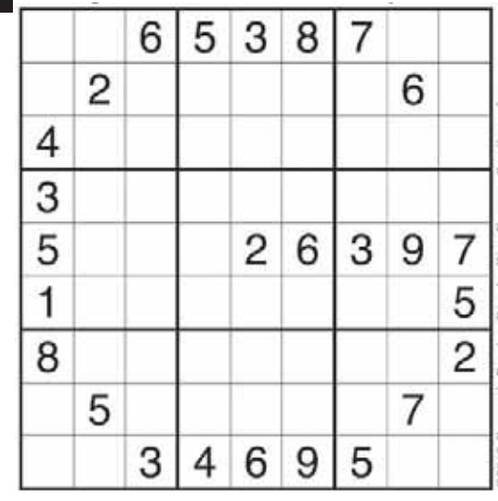


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	7	2	4	9	8	6	3
6	9	8	5	7	3	1	2	4
2	3	4	8	6	1	5	7	9
7	6	5	3	8	2	4	9	1
9	2	3	7	1	4	6	5	8
8	4	1	6	9	5	2	3	7
5	8	9	1	3	6	7	4	2
4	1	6	9	2	7	3	8	5
3	7	2	4	5	8	9	1	6

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Rio4 SX with Navigation shown[6] Cash purchase price $22,514
hwy / city 100km[2]: 5.3L/7.3L

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM $12,999[4]

INCLUDING $4,515 IN CASH CREDIT[5]

Forte SX shown[6] Cash purchase price $26,814
hwy / city 100km[2]: 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, a $4,500 cash credit and a $15 dealer contribution[5]. Offer based on 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) with a selling price of $17,514. Excludes HST.

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM $24,294[4]

INCLUDING $4,500 IN CASH CREDIT[5]

Sorento EX shown[6] Cash purchase price $33,494
hwy / city 100km[2]: 9.0L/12.7L

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